

**England v Hungary**  
Keegan's second test  
Full report, page 52



**Bed, Margaret**  
The man who kept Mrs T quiet  
Walden's poison pen  
page 21



**Julia Roberts**  
What's she got to smile about?  
page 37



**30p**  
EVERY WEEKDAY

TWO DAYS TO GO FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 26

Times poll shows Tory leader's poor image

## Hague fights to save his political life

By PHILIP WEBSTER, ROLAND WATSON, ANDREW PIERCE AND PETER RIDDELL

WILLIAM HAGUE battled for his political life last night by delivering a pledge of loyalty to Margaret Thatcher and her inheritance. Struggling to contain the crisis that has hit his leadership and confronted by a MORI poll showing support for the party and its leader were slipping still further, Mr Hague faced all of his MPs and promised to consult them more.

And he moved again to appease the Right and silence rumblings about his position in a speech last night when he denied that his efforts to improve the party's image on health and education meant that it was abandoning Baroness Thatcher — "one of its truly great leaders" — or the free market — "its great source of inspiration".

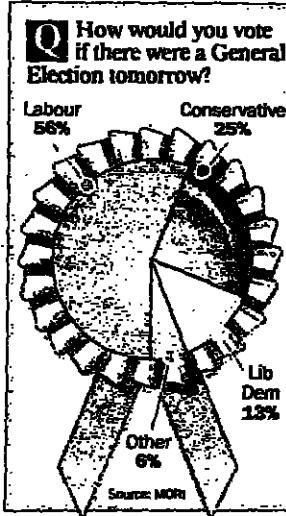
But he refused to retreat from his attempt to kill the notion that the Tories favour the privatisation of the health and education services, emphasising the limits to private sector solutions to their problems. The appearance before the 1922 Committee was a gamble and he finally decided to go ahead with it only an hour before the meeting started — his Shadow Cabinet having closed ranks behind him.

He delivered a short speech, conceding that the events of the past eight days could have been better handled and promising to listen to them more. According to his aides, he received the biggest cheer when he told them that their purpose was to return to power and "not to have theological arguments about every point of policy".

He declared that despite the "worries, criticisms and misapprehensions" that he had encountered, he would not be deterred from making his commitment to the public services plain. "I will go through any number of arguments, take on anyone in debate, endure any criticism, do whatever it takes to get across this position on health and education that is true to the instincts and principles of our party."

The appearance at the 1922 Committee came after Mr Hague had been warned by his Chief Whip James Arbuthnot that the parliamentary party was in a state of revolt. Senior backbenchers had said that feeling was running so high against the strategy unleashed by Peter Lilley, the deputy leader, that they would have little difficulty collecting the 24 signatures needed to trigger a vote of confidence in Mr Hague's leadership.

At the backbenchers' meeting, Mr Hague gave the strong avowal of support for Margaret Thatcher that he was to repeat later at a London fund-raising dinner. He declared that he had joined



William Hague has completely failed to improve his leadership image — particularly among Tories, who rate Tony Blair more highly as a leader, the latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows. Mr Hague's personal rating has dropped from minus 26 to minus 31, and among Tories it now stands at minus 26, which means that twice as many disapprove of his leadership as approve. Page 2



the Conservative Party because of Margaret Thatcher and was proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her election victory. He had always believed passionately that the free market was essential to ensuring freedom, prosperity and personal responsibility. But it was not the policy of the Thatcher Government to extend the free market to every aspect of national life.

"If the criticism is that we are turning our backs on Margaret Thatcher and the free market, I say that we will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be champions of the free market. But we also believe, as previous Conservative governments have, that schools and hospitals paid for by all taxpayers should be available to everyone in the country."

ways be champions of the free market. But we also believe, as previous Conservative governments have, that schools and hospitals paid for by all taxpayers should be available to everyone in the country."

Mr Hague's critics on the backbenches were in full cry, complaining at the muddle in the party's message and the desperately poor timing of Mr Lilley's attempt to change public perceptions of the party. Mr Lilley himself came in for huge criticism from senior backbenchers, many saying that he was out of touch and complaining about the slow pace and lack of imagination in his policy review.

The Shadow Cabinet has voiced deep unhappiness at the way the Lilley plan was executed and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, has privately distanced himself from the Lilley speech.

Mr Maude, a member of the Conservative Central Office strategy group which backed the campaign to try to change the Tories image on the health service, complained directly to Mr Hague about the failed execution of the plan.

Francis is loyal and keeps his views private. But there is no doubt he was deeply unhappy with the spin which was put on the speech by Central Office, one aide said. "The last thing he wanted for us was to apologise for something we had not done wrong. There is a growing consensus that the Lilley speech was badly handled, not just in the lack of consultation, but in the way it was written. It was careless, not least in what it omitted. Francis shares the views of most people in the party that this went badly wrong. We do have to slay the dragon over the NHS. But not the way Lilley chose to do it."

The Maude camp is still clinging to the hope the row will still help the Tories on the doorstep by reinforcing the view that they will defend the NHS.

A mood of deep despondency pervaded party headquarters yesterday. An inquest was held at the early morning strategy meeting over the revelations in *The Times* about the sacking of Michael Simmonds, the director of research and marketing, who was accused of leaking the first draft of Mr Lilley's speech, which went much further in denouncing Thatcherite ideology.

Mr Arbuthnot was livid that his description of the crisis gripping the parliamentary party had been leaked to *The Times* and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, made an implicit threat that anyone caught talking out of turn to the press would be sacked on the spot.

Blame Basildon, page 14  
Leading article, page 23

## Thatcher's 'anecdote'

A SAD picture of the retired Margaret Thatcher, including allegations that she drank too much, is painted by the former Conservative minister George Walden today.

In his memoirs, being serialised in *The Times*, Mr Walden says that "the most vigorous and intelligent Prime Minister in decades" had reached a "premature anecdote". He says that Margaret Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well. "She was also drinking too much. In the old days she would put down a whisky soda or two late in the

evening after her umpteenth-hour day: now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There was no arguing with her anymore; in fact it was impossible to talk to her."

Mr Walden adds: "The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronouncement that sounded as if it had been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she did not know she was doing it."

The Walden memoirs, page 21



Derek Laud: first in the field

## Fox-hunting black joins the masters

By TIM REID

FOR ONE of the nation's most conservative, white, male-dominated pursuits, it is almost a revolution. Britain has just got its first black master of foxhounds.

Derek Laud, 39, a London venture capitalist, has been elected joint master of the prestigious, 210-year-old New Forest Foxhounds, a post he takes up on May 1. "I don't think the hunt are conscious of

the colour of my skin," Mr Laud told *The Times* last night. "But we don't want to put distance between us and anyone that wants to participate in this sport. It doesn't matter if they are a woman or a man, gay or straight."

John Moore, chairman of the hunt club, said: "His colour has nothing to do with it. He's just a bloody nice bloke. He's a good rider, popular, and kind to other members of the hunt."

Mr Laud, who traces his roots to Jamaica, was once challenged on his horse by an anti-hunt saboteur on the grounds that 100 years ago similar people would have been hunting him. "Yes," he countered, "but 200 years ago I would have been eating them."

Mr Laud came to prominence in the early 1990s as the first — and to date only — black member of the right-wing Monday Club.

## Belgrade riven as dissenter is sacked

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

VUK DRASKOVIC, who has criticised President Milosevic and claimed that Belgrade was ready to accept a peace deal over Kosovo, was dismissed as Yugoslavia's Deputy Prime Minister yesterday.

The move came a few days after he had publicly declared that Mr Milosevic should acknowledge Nato could not be defeated. He also urged the Government in Belgrade to stop lying about the country's deteriorating economy after weeks of Nato bombing.

Nato said that the dismissal was a sign of Mr Milosevic's increasing isolation and "the first visible fracture" in the Yugoslav leadership. Mr Draskovic had paid the price of speaking the truth, a Nato official said.

Mr Draskovic said yesterday: "I don't know what precipitated my removal. I haven't spoken to Milosevic." Nato admitted yesterday that a laser-guided bomb had "gone astray" over the town of Surdulica in southern Serbia, hitting a residential area instead of a military barracks. The Yugoslav authorities said that up to 20 civilians had been killed, including six children.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that he regretted the civilian deaths. Later Tony Blair repeated to the Commons that Nato took every possible precaution to avoid civilian casualties.

As Nato's air campaign went into its

sixth week, efforts to find a peace settlement continued, with more meetings in Moscow. However, Strobe Talbott, the American Deputy Secretary of State, on a visit to Berlin after going to Moscow, said that there was nothing to indicate that Mr Milosevic was closer to accepting Nato's five demands.

In Berlin, Mr Talbott met Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, before he flew to Moscow where he will see President Yeltsin tomorrow.

### INSIDE

Nato's regret	18
Voice of dissent	19
Letters	23
Books	40

day. As part of an intensification of diplomatic efforts to end the Kosovo crisis, Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister, was also in Moscow yesterday, meeting Russian leaders.

He said yesterday: "There are elements that increase the hope of a political solution slightly, though one should not overstate them."

However, Goran Matic, a senior Yugoslav official, was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying that the basic outline of an agreement on Kosovo could be "firmed up" this week.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE MAD TO pay twice as much AS YOU NEED TO for phone calls.



If you're happy to let BT make another £3.2 BILLION profit this year, the penny obviously hasn't dropped. First Telecom can save you 50% off national and international calls to over 230 countries. We won't need to touch your existing phone, line or number. Just add First Telecom's service to your existing BT phone and join our 300,000 customers. So don't get mad. Get even.

0800 458 5858

FIRST TELECOM



9 770140 046244







# Tycoon 'hired killer in custody fight'

**Court told  
hitman was  
paid £20,000  
to murder  
wife, reports  
Richard Duce**

A MILLIONAIRE paid a hitman £20,000 to murder his former partner after she won custody of their two children, a court was told yesterday.

Derek Goldsmith, who made a fortune from his Aqualisa shower company, was said to have embarked on a "calculated and wicked" plot to have Diana Goldsmith killed because he wanted care of their son and daughter. The 44-year-old woman — she took his name although they never married — had been abducted from her home by two men in January 1995 and murdered soon afterwards. Her body was not found for two years, when it was discovered buried in the back garden of a house in Bromley, southeast London.

Andrew Patience, QC, for the prosecution, told Maidstone Crown Court that Mr Goldsmith, 62, refused to accept the ruling by a High Court judge that custody of his son, aged seven, and 12-year-old daughter should remain with their mother when the couple separated after 12 years. "He never came to terms with it. Derek Goldsmith's determination to have these children under his care and control has led him ultimately to the dock where he now stands trial."

Mr Patience said: "The defendant badly wanted the care and control of his children. That desire was thwarted by the decision of the High Court which he could not accept. It is for that reason he entered into a calculated and wicked plan to get the children back, although it meant they would be deprived of their mother for ever."

He said the prosecution did not claim that Mr Goldsmith had killed Diana Goldsmith himself. "He was careful to keep his distance. Rather we say that by giving final instructions... he counselled and procured her death."

Mr Patience said the murder plot took shape after Mr Goldsmith confided in Michael Fitzpatrick, his son-in-law by a previous marriage, who he had helped to set up in a scrap metal business in South London. "He spoke of



Diana being an unfit mother and how he would get his children back some day. It was like an obsession with him," Mr Patience said.

Their friendship had taken a darker and "sinister" twist when Mr Goldsmith had asked Fitzpatrick if he knew of "anyone who could get rid of Diana, that is to say kill her".

Fitzpatrick, who has admitted a conspiracy to murder, is a key prosecution witness. It was he who put Mr Goldsmith in touch with the hitman, Ian Colligan. Mr Patience said that under instructions from Mr Goldsmith, Colligan and Fitzpatrick burgled Mrs Goldsmith's home in Sevenoaks, Kent, to copy a set of her keys. The plan had been to return later and lie in wait for her.

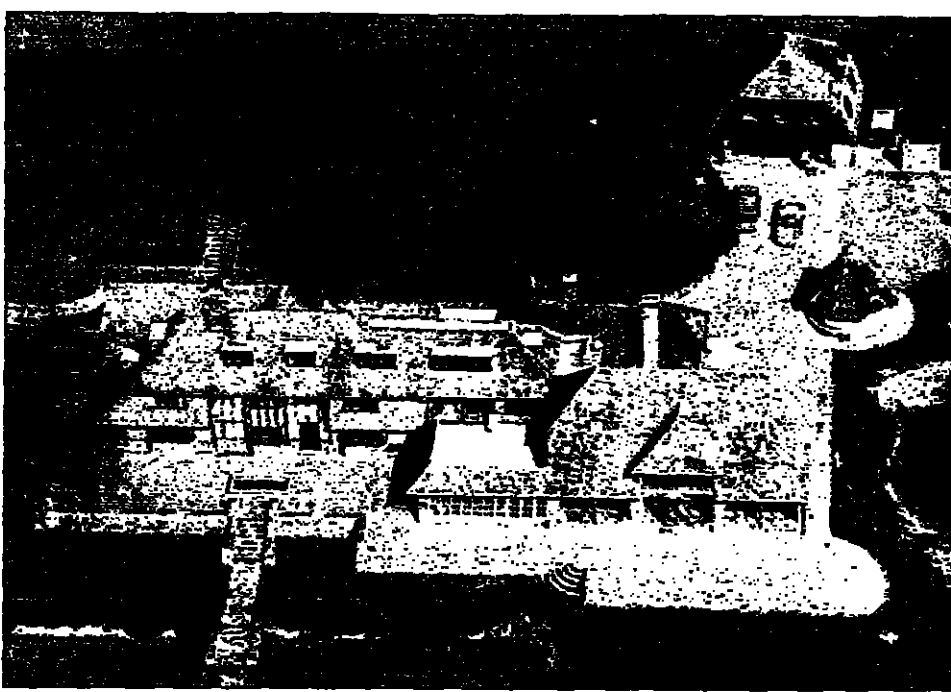
Colligan had reported back to Fitzpatrick that Mr Goldsmith had handed him £20,000 at a Little Chef on the

A21 road to Hastings. But by now, Mr Patience said, Fitzpatrick had got cold feet and urged Colligan "not to do the job and keep the money".

Instead, Colligan had recruited his friend Michael Danaher with the offer of £1,500, and the two men had let themselves in to Mrs Goldsmith's house. She had returned home having dropped off her son at his school.

Mr Patience told the jury: "Colligan overpowered her. She was assured no harm would come to her and she was given a cup of coffee and a cigarette to calm her down. Her hands were secured with plastic ties." Mrs Goldsmith had then been driven away in her own Volvo car, which had later been found abandoned at the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Essex. She was never seen alive again.

Mr Patience said that Colligan then told Fitzpatrick that



The prosecution claims that Diana Goldsmith was kidnapped from her house in Sevenoaks, below, on the orders of her partner Derek Goldsmith, right, who lived in Edenbridge, above, and was put in touch with the hitman by Michael Fitzpatrick, below



he would not dispose of the body unless he was paid a further £20,000 by Mr Goldsmith. The millionaire had handed over a further £6,000. In the meantime, Fitzpatrick had asked a friend if he could bury 50 kilos of cannabis in his back garden. While the friend was out, Fitzpatrick had buried the body.

Mr Patience said that days before he was arrested last year, Mr Goldsmith, who by now had custody of his children, had ordered a book near his home in Edenbridge, Kent, entitled *When Father Kills Mother — guiding children through trauma and grief*.

Danaher admitted a kidnapping charge in June 1996 and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court. Colligan committed suicide while on remand in prison. Mr Goldsmith denies conspiring to murder his wife.

The trial continues.

## Marines rejected school massacre mastermind

**Police question four friends of  
killers, reports Giles Whittell**

ERIC HARRIS, who masterminded the school shooting in Colorado in which 15 people died last week, was taking medication for a psychiatric condition and had been rejected by the US Marines five days before.

According to military sources, Harris had done well in an early interview for the Marines but had been turned down on medical grounds. "The system worked," a Marine Corps spokesman said. But the young man it weeded out then went on a rampage, the impact of which is still being felt more than a week later. As crowds packed two more funerals for victims of Harris and his partner, Dylan Klebold, police confirmed that three more young men and a woman could still become suspects.

The men being questioned, all with links to the so-called Trenchcoat Mafia, have been named as Matthew Christian, Matt Akard and Jim Bran-

etti. They were spotted near the school wearing combat fatigues and black shirts during the shootings, taken into custody and released.

One told the *Rocky Mountain News* that they had been watching because they were "just three punks with a lot of curiosity". Police suspect they may have known about the massacre in advance because, as Sheriff John Stone noted on Tuesday: "They said they heard it on the radio... but it wasn't on the radio then."

The woman helping detectives, 18-year-old Robyn Anderson, was Klebold's girlfriend. She went to the school prom with him three days before the killings and is known to have bought the two shotguns used by him and Harris. Questioned and released on Tuesday, she was still co-operating with police yesterday.

A national debate on who to blame for the carnage may find the answer in the courts. Geof-



Anderson: bought two guns used in the killings

frey Feiger, a nationally-known defence lawyer who made his name representing Dr Jack Kervorkian, the advocate of assisted suicide, has been approached twice by the family of the sole black victim, Isaiah Shoels. His father is considering a lawsuit because police and school officials allegedly ignored repeated warnings about threats of violence from Harris and Klebold, and on the ground that their parents ig-

nored clear signs of an arms build-up in their own homes.

"How would they not know they had bomb factories in their houses?" Michael Schwartz, Mr Feiger's law partner, asked as police raised the number of bombs found at the school to 51.

New information released on Tuesday hinted for the first time that Harris and Klebold may have considered suicide only as a last resort. Harris's diary contained mention of escaping to Mexico. Sheriff Stone said. Detectives also believe the gunmen made three attempts to flee the building before shooting themselves.

As the investigation continued, President Clinton made an impassioned plea for new gun control measures. He asked "everybody who is waiting for the next deer season in my home state to think about this in terms of what our reasonable obligations to the larger community of America are".

The Duchess of York joined mourners in Littleton, saying that it reminded her of Kensington Palace after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

## Patched-up Verve split again

By Alex O'Connell

THE Verve, the rock group that Liam Gallagher of Oasis called "the best band in the world — apart from us", announced yesterday that they had split after months of speculation about their future.

The band, which slumped down from five to a quartet when the guitarist Nick McCabe left, said it was a mutual decision. Richard Ashcroft, the singer, said: "The decision to split the band did not come without a great deal of distress to me personally."

"I have always given everything to the band and would have continued to do so if circumstances had not made it impossible."

The working-class boys from Wigan notched up hits including *Bitter Sweet*



The five members of The Verve before they parted company

*Symphony* and their first No 1, *The Drugs Don't Work*.

This is not the first time the band has split. In 1995 McCabe and Ashcroft fell out over the singer's hedonistic lifestyle and McCabe did not speak to any of

The Verve for 18 months. Ashcroft, known as "Mad Richard" at the time, because of his appetite for drugs, reportedly begged McCabe to come back. Later he wrote *The Drugs Don't Work* about the circumstances surrounding the split. But although McCabe was reported to have patched up differences with the group, he did not perform or record with them again.

In January Ashcroft held a party at his mansion in Gloucestershire without inviting the other band members. The previous month Ashcroft and McCabe had been snubbed when they found out through friends about the wedding of the guitarist Simon Tong.

Recently it emerged that Ashcroft had been recording in a South London studio, followed by rumours of a solo project.





# Office may spark new battle of Newbury

A TOWN which saw one of the fiercest environmental battles of recent years was yesterday facing another upheaval after Vodafone gained approval to build its world headquarters on a green site.

Campaigners who failed to prevent Newbury getting its controversial bypass have said they will return to the fray against the telecommunications giant.

They denounced Vodafone after the company threatened to relocate its 3,500-strong workforce if the plan was rejected. In the end, West Berkshire Council rejected advice from planning officers that the headquarters would generate demand for thousands more houses and approved the plans early yesterday after a 6½-hour debate.

Vodafone's £60 million headquarters will cover 30 acres north of the town centre. Within five years it will employ staff from 36 of the 57 buildings which the company currently uses across the Berkshire market town.

Friends of the Earth accused the company of holding a gun to the council's head. Adrian Foster-Fletcher, a spokesman, said: "For a company that makes £3 million per day, they have behaved like an Arthur Daley backstreet garage. The council will be powerless to stop 3,000 houses being dumped in the area."

However, as with the controversial bypass, the people of Newbury seem largely in favour of Vodafone's scheme. An

## Environmentalists threaten a siege over approval for Vodafone centre, writes Helen Johnstone

independent survey showed that of 1,559 people asked, only 96 were against.

The company, which has donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to local charities since moving to Newbury in 1983, was sensitive to the charge it might be buying votes. At the eleventh hour, it rejected a council demand that it donate £5 million to a housing association.

The company said yesterday: "Vodafone saw it as buying the application. The council would have had the

problem anyway. We confirmed in a letter early yesterday that if the condition remained we would pull out."

The council voted by 23 to 22, with one abstention, to drop the condition. Councilors then went on to vote by 25 to 18 in favour of the headquarters, along with around 2,000 parking spaces on former agricultural land.

Jim Sherry, the council's head of planning and transport strategy, gave a warning that more green sites were now under threat. "We have

very few brownfield sites, so most of the new houses will have to go on greenfield sites."

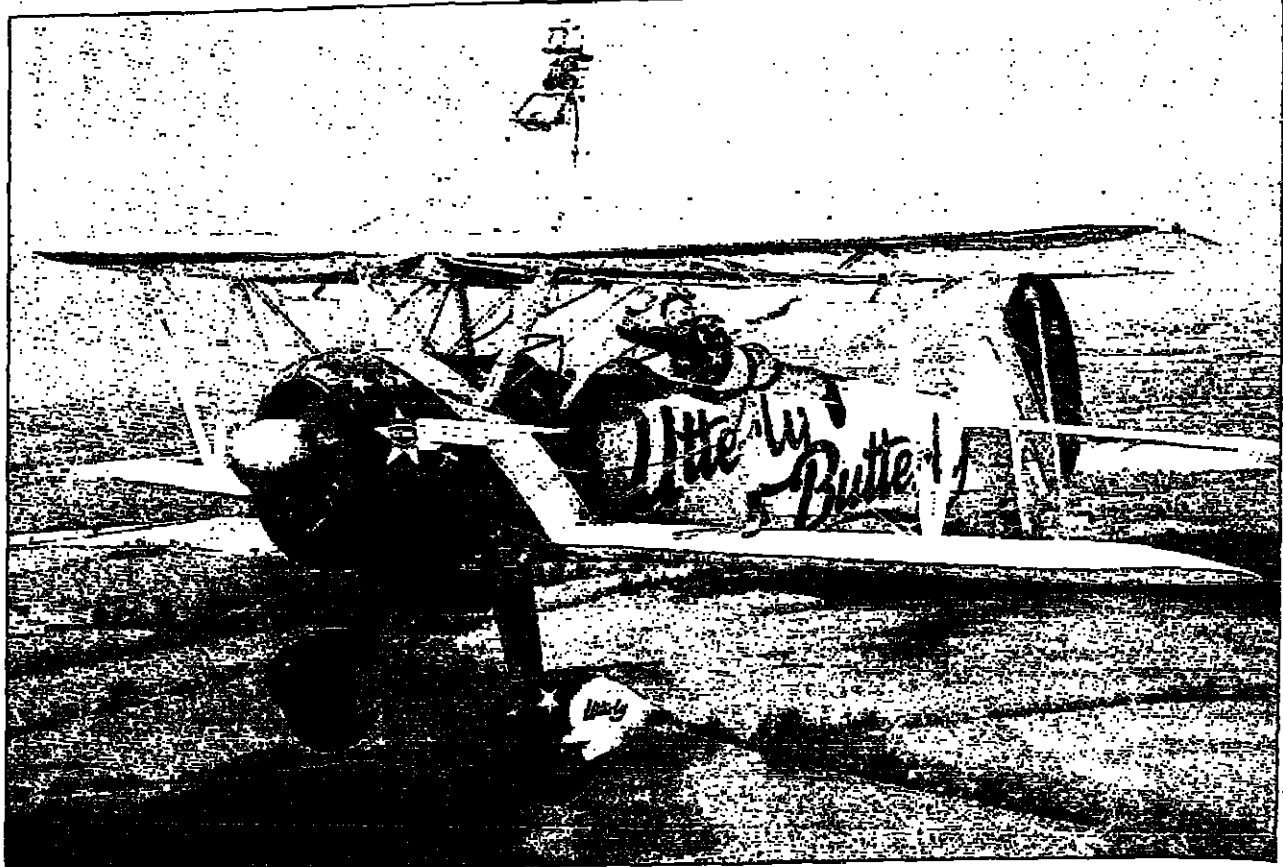
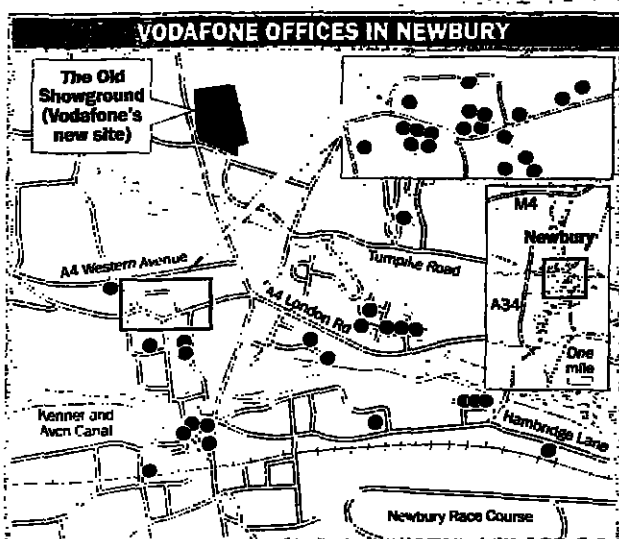
Planners had said that up to 3,900 new jobs could be created. Their report recommending refusal had said that this would result in a significant increase in commuting to the town and further pressure on housing.

Friends of the Earth, which argued that Vodafone could move 20 miles down the M4 to Reading, where houses were already available and a bus service planned, is calling for a public inquiry.

Mr Foster-Fletcher said: "Planning officers and the planning committee recommended refusal. About 300 people who demonstrated last week in favour of the proposals were Vodafone employees. Pressure must be put on the council to take a proper view of this application."

Mike Caldwell, the Vodafone spokesman, said that staying in Newbury would prevent workers clocking up 30 million extra road miles a year. "If we had moved to Reading, a vast majority of our staff would have stayed living in the Newbury area and used their cars to drive to work. Residents yesterday expressed delight. Vodafone signs are already everywhere you look, so it will be good to see the bulk of them moving out of the town," said Jim Dodwell, a retired publisher.

Sue Bruce, a secretary, said: "The move will be gradual, over three to five years."



Helen Tempest in her Boeing Stearman biplane after re-enacting a wing-walking feat banned since the 1930s

## Walker with a wing and a prayer

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT MIGHT play havoc with a girl's hairdo, but that was the least of Helen Tempest's worries yesterday as she performed a wing-walking stunt so dangerous it has been banned since the 1930s.

As her Boeing Stearman biplane roared 100ft above a Gloucestershire airfield, the 33-year-old professional daredevil climbed out of the cockpit and on to the lower wing. Battered by the 100mph slipstream, she stepped gingerly from spar to spar, knowing that one false step and her foot would go straight through the thin fabric skin. If that happened, not even the safety harness she wears would have been able to stop her



The last legal wing-walk, in 1930s

or the 50-year-old plane plummeting to the ground.

After spending ten minutes walking to the middle of the 33ft-long wing and back again, she said: "That was truly

amazing. It made me feel like Superwoman. When you step out you are overwhelmed by the force of the air behind the propeller. You can barely breathe. She added that it was "incredible fun".

Miss Tempest, who has been wing-walking since the age of 15, is a member of the Utterly Butterly Barnstormers, who perform at airshows across Europe and are the first team to be granted permission to perform the stunt since wing-walking was banned by the Civil Aviation Authority in 1933 because of the large number of fatalities.

Wing-walking began in the 1920s when World War One pilots tried to find ways of earning a living after returning to civilian life.

## Aid for disabled on the menu

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WATERS will be required to read out menus to people with visual impairments under government guidelines issued this week.

Shopkeepers will have to open their door for customers who cannot easily manage it themselves, and owners of small shops who cannot afford to build a ramp or widen doorways will be required to serve customers who use wheelchairs on the pavement.

The advice is part of the Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into force on October 1. It is designed to guarantee disabled people the right of access to all goods and services on the high street.

The guidance is designed to placate owners of small businesses who are concerned that the new legislation will involve building alterations to their premises and other costly adjustments to the way they work. Instead of building new

display units that are accessible to wheelchair users or people with restricted movement, storekeepers will be advised to retrieve items from inaccessible shelves.

Businesses that cannot afford to install an induction loop or hire a sign language interpreter will be required to write down information for people who have hearing impairments. Similarly, solicitors and providers of other professional services will be able to produce documents on tape or in large print for clients with visual impairments. Instead of having to have them printed in Braille.

Announcing the regulations in the Commons, Margaret Hodge, minister for disabled people, said she hoped the new legislation would lead to "a high street revolution" in the way that services are delivered.



Partridge: obnoxious but fictional, says the BBC

## Warning: this man is no role model

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC was forced to spell out yesterday that Alan Partridge, the obnoxious, offensive, homophobic sexist fictional chat show host, was not a suitable role model for viewers.

Executives published a lengthy explanation distancing themselves from the behaviour of the star of the BBC2 comedy series *I'm Alan Partridge* after being reprimanded by broadcasting watchdogs.

The Broadcasting Standards Commission upheld complaints that a repeat episode of the show, starring the comedian Steve Coogan as a fading chat-show host, was offensive to the disabled.

Partridge mocked a character who had undergone an operation to remove his vocal cords and spouting an electronic gadget. He asked the man why he spoke so strangely and told him he sounded "like the young girl in *The Exorcist*".

After being told by the commission that humour at the expense of someone who had undergone a laryngectomy exceeded acceptable boundaries, the BBC said that it had had no intention to ridicule sufferers.

The central character in the series was a fading media star whose most distinctive feature was his crass insensitivity, it said in its submission to the commission. "He unashamedly alienated or offended most of the people he met, while remaining unaware that he was the object of the humour rather than those on the receiving end of his tasteless jokes."

The spokesman explained that the behaviour of Partridge — who is reduced in his latest series to presenting the 4.30am show on Radio Norwich and living in a Travel Tavern — had put his career and personal life on a "remorseless slide".

The BBC added that he was "clearly not intended to be a role model" and "his boorish and prejudiced behaviour should be seen in that light".

## Make bathing a pleasure not a chore, with Dolphin Easy Access



Whatever your needs in the bathroom, Dolphin has something truly special for you. Our range of walk-in showers and powerbaths, including the deep soak 'Tranquillity' bath, makes bathing easier, safer, and more comfortable.

- 1 The 'Tranquillity' bath features an integral door for easy 'step-in, step-out' access and comes with a matching canopy for use with the shower of your choice.
- 2 Easy access showers are ideal for wheelchairs and walk-in users.
- 3 Shower seats allow sit down showering, without fear of slipping.
- 4 Powerbaths gently lift you in and out of the water.
- 5 Dolphin take care of everything including planning, delivery and professional installation.
- 6 Free home advice service and full guarantee.

OVER 150 HIGH STREET SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE. For more information and details of your nearest showroom call

0800 62 62 48

<http://www.dolphin-fitted-bathrooms.co.uk>

Please send me my free brochure and provide further information about Dolphin Special Needs Bathrooms.

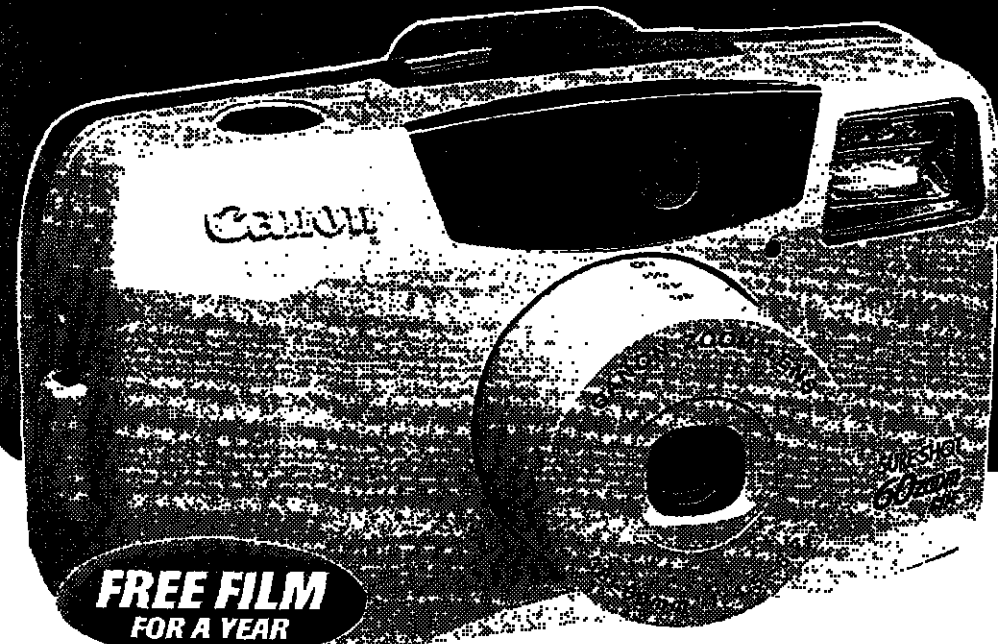
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Post free to: Dolphin Special Needs Bathrooms, PO Box 100, Manchester M16 6NH

THE DOLPHIN SPECIAL NEEDS BATHROOMS

# Dixons FREE FILM FOR A YEAR\*



## Canon ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA

- 38-60mm zoom lens.
- 'Red-eye' reducing flash.
- Self timer.
- Large viewfinder.

Was £89.99. SAVE £10

MODEL: SURE SHOT 60ZM.

LOWEST EVER PRICE

DIXONS DEAL £79.99

## APS ZOOM CAMERA

SAVE £20

## Canon

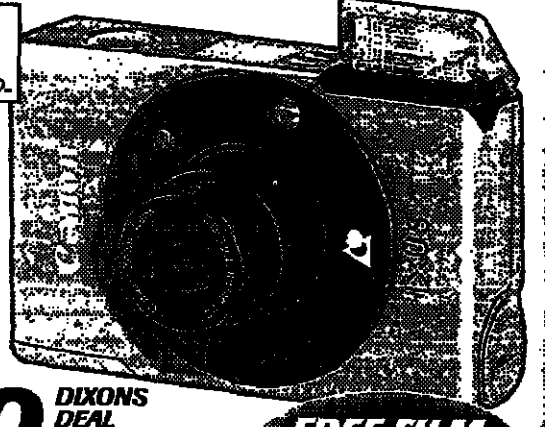
- ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA
- 24-48mm 2x zoom lens.
- Date/time backprinting facility.
- 3 zone programme auto-exposure.
- Active autofocus system with focus lock.

Was £199.99.

SAVE £20

LOWEST EVER PRICE

MODEL: IXUS ZOOM.



DIXONS DEAL £179.99

FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

GUARANTEES OUR PRICES CAN'T BE BEATEN!

## FREE FILM FOR A YEAR\* WITH ALL CAMERAS OVER £30

COLLECT ONE FREE FILM AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE AND RECEIVE A REDEMPTION LEAFLET THAT ENTITLES YOU TO CLAIM A FREE FILM EVERY MONTH FOR THE FOLLOWING 11 MONTHS. Offer applies to Zoom and APS cameras (excluding mobile and digital cameras).

## 35mm CAMERAS

### FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

**Canon**  
COMPACT CAMERA  
• Built-in flash with 'red-eye' reduction  
• 2 zone autofocus system  
• Self timer. MODEL: A711  
DIXONS DEAL £44.99 FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

**SAMSUNG**  
ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA  
• 24-70mm zoom lens  
• 'Red-eye' reducing flash  
• Active autofocus system  
• Date/time backprinting facility. Was £119.99. SAVE £10  
MODEL: 1054L DIXONS DEAL £109.99 FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

**OLYMPUS**  
ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA  
• 30-105mm zoom lens  
• 2 zone autofocus system  
• 'Red-eye' reducing flash  
• Date/time backprinting facility. Was £189.99. SAVE £20  
MODEL: AU105 CHAMPAGNE DIXONS DEAL £179.99 FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

## APS CAMERAS

### FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

**Kodak**  
ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM COMPACT CAMERA  
• Fully automatic flash system  
• 3 zone autofocus system  
• Active autofocus system  
• Date/time backprinting facility. Was £59.99. SAVE £10  
MODEL: AP100 DIXONS DEAL £39.99 FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

**Kodak**  
ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA  
• 24-48mm 2x zoom lens  
• 'Red-eye' reducing flash  
• Active autofocus system  
• Date/time backprinting facility. Was £79.99. SAVE £10  
MODEL: FOCUS ZOOM DIXONS DEAL £49.99 FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

**CHINON**  
ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM COMPACT CAMERA  
• Fully automatic flash system  
• 3 zone autofocus system  
• Active autofocus system  
• Date/time backprinting facility. Was £59.99. SAVE £10  
MODEL: AP100 DIXONS DEAL £39.99 FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

**FUJI**  
ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM ZOOM COMPACT CAMERA  
• 24-48mm 2x zoom lens  
• 'Red-eye' reducing flash  
• Active autofocus system  
• Date/time backprinting facility. Was £79.99. SAVE £10  
MODEL: FOCUS ZOOM DIXONS DEAL £49.99 FREE FILM FOR A YEAR

free serve The UK's No1 Internet Service To join us, pick up a FREE CD in-store.

www.freeserve.net

Dixons

DIXONS ON-LINE: [www.dixons.co.uk](http://www.dixons.co.uk)

DIXONS DIRECT 0800 60 28 68

Terms and Conditions: 1. The coupon can only be redeemed if accompanied by a valid receipt for a purchase of a minimum of £30 in any branch of the company. 2. The offer entitles the holder to one FREE FILM at the time of purchase and one FREE FILM per calendar month for the following 11 months. 3. The coupon can be used to claim a free film at any branch of the company. 4. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 5. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 6. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 7. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 8. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 9. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 10. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 11. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 12. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 13. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 14. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 15. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 16. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 17. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 18. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 19. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 20. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 21. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 22. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 23. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 24. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 25. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 26. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 27. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 28. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 29. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 30. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 31. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 32. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 33. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 34. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 35. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 36. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 37. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 38. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 39. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 40. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 41. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 42. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 43. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 44. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 45. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 46. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 47. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 48. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 49. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 50. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 51. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 52. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 53. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 54. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 55. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 56. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 57. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 58. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 59. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 60. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 61. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 62. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 63. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 64. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 65. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 66. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 67. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 68. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 69. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 70. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 71. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 72. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 73. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 74. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 75. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 76. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 77. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 78. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 79. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 80. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 81. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 82. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 83. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 84. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 85. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 86. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 87. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 88. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 89. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 90. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 91. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 92. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 93. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 94. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 95. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 96. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 97. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 98. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 99. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 100. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 101. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 102. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 103. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 104. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 105. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 106. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 107. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 108. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 109. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 110. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 111. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 112. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 113. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 114. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 115. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 116. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 117. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 118. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 119. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 120. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 121. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 122. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 123. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 124. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 125. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 126. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 127. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 128. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 129. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 130. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 131. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 132. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 133. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 134. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 135. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 136. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 137. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 138. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 139. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 140. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 141. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 142. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 143. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 144. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 145. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 146. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 147. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 148. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 149. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 150. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 151. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 152. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 153. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 154. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 155. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 156. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 157. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 158. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 159. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 160. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 161. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 162. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 163. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 164. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 165. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 166. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 167. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 168. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 169. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 170. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 171. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 172. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 173. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 174. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 175. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 176. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 177. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 178. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 179. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 180. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 181. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 182. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 183. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 184. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 185. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 186. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 187. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 188. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 189. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 190. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 191. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 192. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 193. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 194. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 195. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 196. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 197. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 198. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 199. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 200. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 201. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 202. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 203. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 204. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 205. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 206. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 207. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 208. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 209. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 210. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 211. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 212. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 213. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 214. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 215. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 216. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 217. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 218. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 219. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 220. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 221. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 222. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 223. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 224. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 225. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 226. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 227. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 228. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 229. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 230. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 231. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 232. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 233. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 234. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 235. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 236. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 237. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 238. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 239. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 240. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 241. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 242. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 243. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 244. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 245. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 246. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 247. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 248. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 249. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 250. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 251. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 252. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 253. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 254. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 255. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 256. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 257. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 258. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 259. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 260. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 261. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 262. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 263. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 264. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 265. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 266. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 267. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 268. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 269. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 270. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 271. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 272. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 273. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 274. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 275. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 276. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 277. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 278. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 279. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 280. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 281. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 282. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 283. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member. 284. The coupon must be used by the holder or a family member



# 'Who would want to kill my gentle Jill?'

Fiancé urges those with suspicions to tell police, writes Michael Harvey

THE fiancé of the murdered television presenter Jill Dando spoke yesterday of his grief and incomprehension at her death. Alan Farthing said: "I cannot understand why they would want to kill someone as gentle, kind and well-meaning as perfect a person as Jill."

Mr Farthing, 35, a consultant gynaecologist at a West London hospital, was due to marry Miss Dando in September. They had been seeing each other since meeting on a blind date last year.

In an emotional interview organised by the police he said: "I am coping in the same way as anybody else would cope in these circumstances. I am devastated. Everybody around me is devastated, everybody is trying to offer as much support as they possibly can."

His thoughts were focused



Jill Dando and Alan Farthing together last Christmas

on finding her killer: "Somebody has planned this... and somebody around that person will have noticed a change in behaviour. I would appeal to anyone who is suspicious not to think about it, but to just go ahead and give the police the information they have. If the information is not relevant, then let the police officers decide that."

Mr Farthing was speaking at Kensington police station, where the murder investigation is being co-ordinated. He said that Miss Dando, 37, had not spoken of any serious fears about her celebrity status or

her role presenting *Crimewatch UK*. He added: "I have spent hours, as has everybody who knows Jill, desperately racking the backs of our minds to see if we can come up with a particular reason. It is not something that was a topic of conversation. She never really felt that there was any particular danger to her as far as I'm aware."

He said that she had contacted *Crimewatch* before she joined to see if anyone had been threatened, but was assured: "It did not worry us. More worrying were the occasions when she had to go in to

the BBC car park at 1am to drive herself home."

Mr Farthing said that he could see himself going back to work, but for the moment he was too busy helping the police. "My first emotions now are that, whatever happens and whatever arrests are made, it does not bring back Jill and that is desperately sad."

"Nevertheless, it helps me and Jill's family and it helps Jill's friends and colleagues to feel that we are doing everything we can to try and apprehend whoever is responsible."

Mr Farthing, his voice breaking, said that he had last spoken to Miss Dando at 7.25am on Monday when she left his house in Chiswick. Detectives are still talking to family and friends, seeking clues.

Mr Farthing first heard that there was something wrong when he had a pager message from her agent, who was trying to find out if rumours of her death were true. He had tried to contact police stations when a senior police officer whom he knew arrived to give him the news.

Talk of a public memorial was premature but he and Miss Dando's family wanted to thank all those who had expressed their condolences.



Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell at the Dando murder scene yesterday

## Delay in issuing picture holds up the hunt

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE hunt for Jill Dando's killer is making slow progress, hit by delays in issuing key pictures of the main suspect.

Three days after the murder senior detectives have also lost the advantage of the first 24 hours, called the "golden hours" by police because the memories of witnesses are at their sharpest.

Scotland Yard commanders believe the case is "very solvable", because of the number of witnesses, unless Miss Dando was the victim of a Serbian revenge attack. But a number of top leads, identified as "fast-track inquiries", carried out in the first day of investigation have failed to yield results.

These would include obvious tasks such as searches of the area, anyone immediately identified as having a motive and tip-offs of good suspects.

Yesterday the Yard said detectives were still trying to find a witness who had a good view of a man seen loitering near Miss Dando's home and running away after the shooting. At least five men and two women witnesses have come forward and detectives are examining which one could provide the E-Fit. One of the problems is that witnesses may have only caught a side or back view of the suspect who was aged between 30 and 40, about 5ft 10in or 5ft 11in tall, well dressed in a suit or dark jacket and trousers, and carrying a mobile telephone.

The Dando murder team, led by Detective Chief Inspector Hamish Campbell, know that they must get the best picture they can and time is not on their side. If the detectives rush out a poor picture, they face the risk that possible witnesses will eliminate suspects because they do not match it. Yesterday a specialist search team often used after terrorist attacks was in Cowan Avenue and nearby streets looking for the murder weapon.

## Police grapple with mystery of gunman's motive

### KOSOVO CONNECTION

**Theory:** Miss Dando was the victim of a Serb killer acting in revenge for the bombing last week of the Serbian television station in Belgrade.

**Evidence:** Last week she presented a television charity appeal for the victims of the Kosovo conflict. Two anonymous callers to the BBC and one to ITN have claimed that there is a Balkan link to the murder. Several Serb television workers were killed in the Nato bombing, which the British Government justified as an attack on "the ministry of lies in Milosevic's one-medium state". The murder of such a prominent BBC employee might be seen by a Serb as apt revenge.

**Likelihood:** Far-fetched theory but not ruled out by the police.

### PERSONAL REVENGE

**Theory:** She was killed by someone who knew her either in her personal or professional life.

**Evidence:** An admirer could have become jealous after learning of her engagement to Alan Farthing, 35, a gynaecologist. Police are questioning all those close to her, including Dr Farthing. They have searched his townhouse in Chiswick, West London. They have also spoken to her former boyfriend, Simon Basil, 33, a former game park warden who is now a computer analyst in Hampshire. She met him in January 1997 when she went was filming in South Africa. Women are more often killed by people known to them but police emphasise that neither Dr Farthing nor any former boyfriend is a suspect.

**Likelihood:** Possible and being investigated.

### OBSESSED FAN

**Theory:** She was killed by a stalker who was infatuated with her.

**Evidence:** Miss Dando had expressed concern about her safety but not recently. As with all women television celebrities she attracted her fair share of fans and fanmail. Several websites were devoted to her. Last year she was bothered by an obsessive fan who was warned off by the BBC. Someone who believed himself to be in love with her could have been pushed over the edge by the news of her forthcoming marriage.

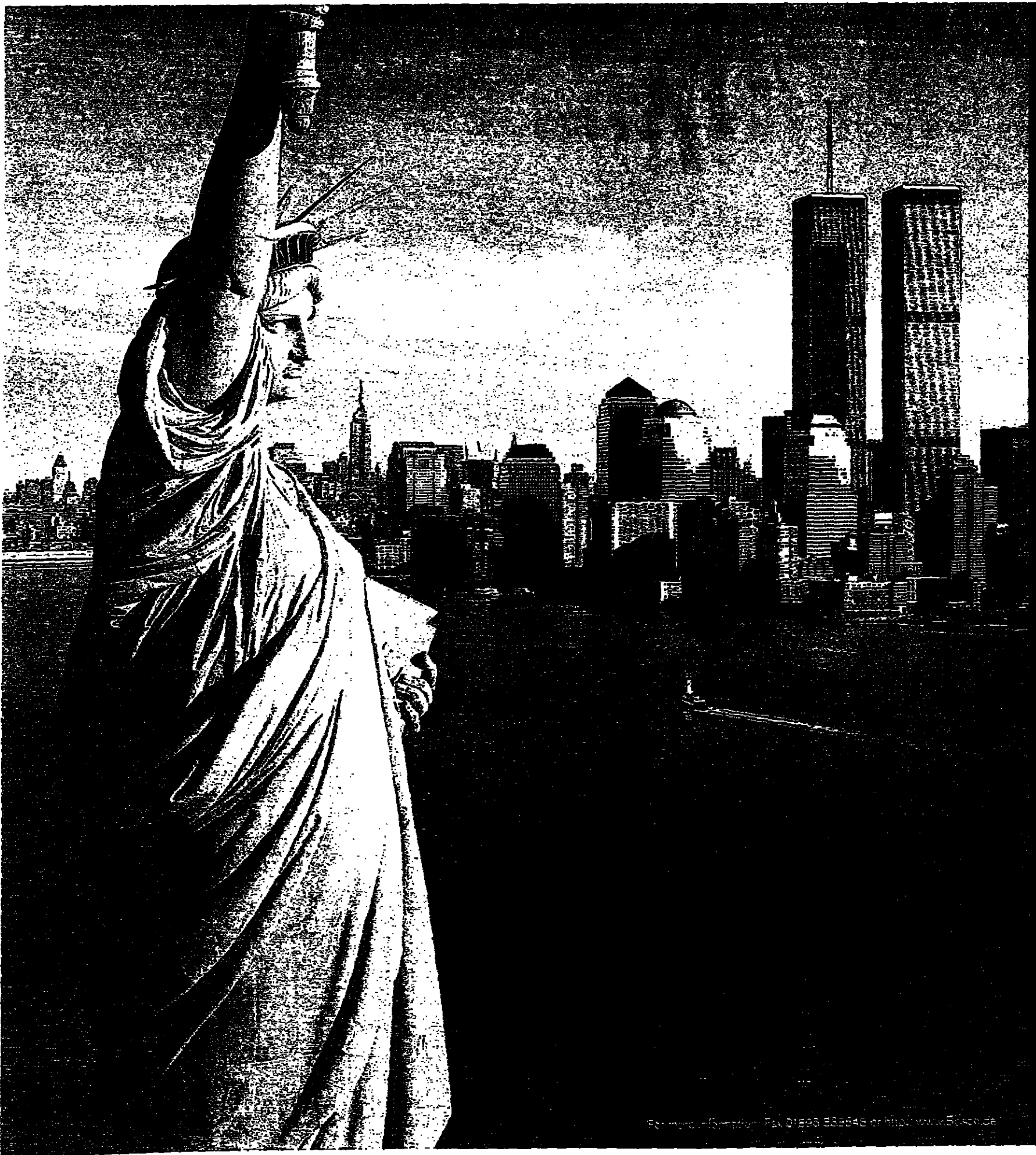
**Likelihood:** Possible and police are treating it seriously. But people with obsessions very rarely kill the object of their infatuation. The shooting was also too clinical to suggest that the killer was an emotionally tortured fan.

### CRIMEWATCH GRUDGE

**Theory:** A criminal brought to justice by the BBC1 programme *Crimewatch* sought revenge by hiring a professional hitman.

**Evidence:** Miss Dando co-presented the programme for four years. In that time it featured nearly 500 crimes and about a third were solved. Police are examining *Crimewatch* files to see which criminals have recently been released from jail. Few of the offences featured in the programme involved the sort of gangland crime likely to provoke a revenge killing. Nick Ross, her co-presenter, does not believe there is a *Crimewatch* connection.

**Likelihood:** Police consider it very unlikely. A professional killer would not have worked without gloves and a well-thought out escape route.



Bosch has created the mobile phone for commuters

There you are standing in front of this breathtaking view, totally speechless – as far as your mobile phone is concerned.

It's a predicament we can help you with. Because the new Multiband-Mobile WORLD 718 works just like you – here today, there tomorrow. As a subscriber to one of Europe's mobile networks, you can use this phone to make calls in many parts of the USA as well as other parts of the world, provided they are serviced with European GSM technology. This world-first, mobile phone will connect to the local network on its own and always retains the same phone number. So at least your mobile phone will never experience jetlag but, if you ever do, you can always switch it off.

Bosch. We bring innovation



BOSCH

For more information: Fax 01895 833848 or <http://www.bosch.co.uk>





**JUSTICE  
DENIED**

Kicked, beaten and burned by a man who could kill her, this victim needs to see a lawyer fast.

But under the Access to Justice Bill, there may be no legal aid lawyers left in her area when she makes her claim. By which time it may be too late for her to find one further afield.

So what's the point of having rights, if basic access to justice is denied?

This Bill will hit the poorest and most vulnerable – the very people who need legal aid.

To protect their right to justice, ask your MP to lobby for changes to the Access to Justice Bill now. Before it's too late.



*Refuge, a national lifeline for women and children experiencing domestic violence, shares these concerns about the impact of the Bill.*

**Her partner uses  
her as his personal  
punchbag.**

**Now the  
Government  
is about to  
deliver another  
wounding blow.**



**THE LAW SOCIETY**

Justice for all.

Poet of  
Dome  
pen o  
to new

LINKS



The hottest  
are in Sc  
B



Sainsbury's 30 Frozer  
1/4 Pounds x 4 454g £

Sain



# Poet of the Dome will pen ode to new era

By MARK HENDERSON

POETRY was assured of its place in the Millennium Dome yesterday when Simon Armitage was appointed as poet-in-residence.

Armitage, a Yorkshireman and one of Britain's foremost young poets, will spend six months based at Greenwich composing a 1,000-line ode to Britain's celebrations. He will be paid £5,000.

He will perform the completed work in the Dome and at venues across the country. He is also likely to read extracts at the New Year's Eve celebrations, though a full reading would probably be considered too long. "I'm a slow reader and a thousand lines would take me about an hour," Armitage said. But he added: "If people are sober and patient enough to sit through that on millennium night, I'll do it."

The poem, which he promises will rhyme, will be published as a book. Extracts will feature around the Dome, possibly in zones for which they are appropriate.

Composing a poem to mark an event of such importance

would usually be a job for the Poet Laureate, a position that remains vacant since the death last year of Ted Hughes. Armitage is considered a strong option for the post, though not a frontrunner, and the commission is certain to boost his candidacy.

Armitage, 35 and a former probation officer, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize for his first collection of poems, *Zoom!* and is a winner of the Forward Prize for poetry. He writes on modern and accessible subjects

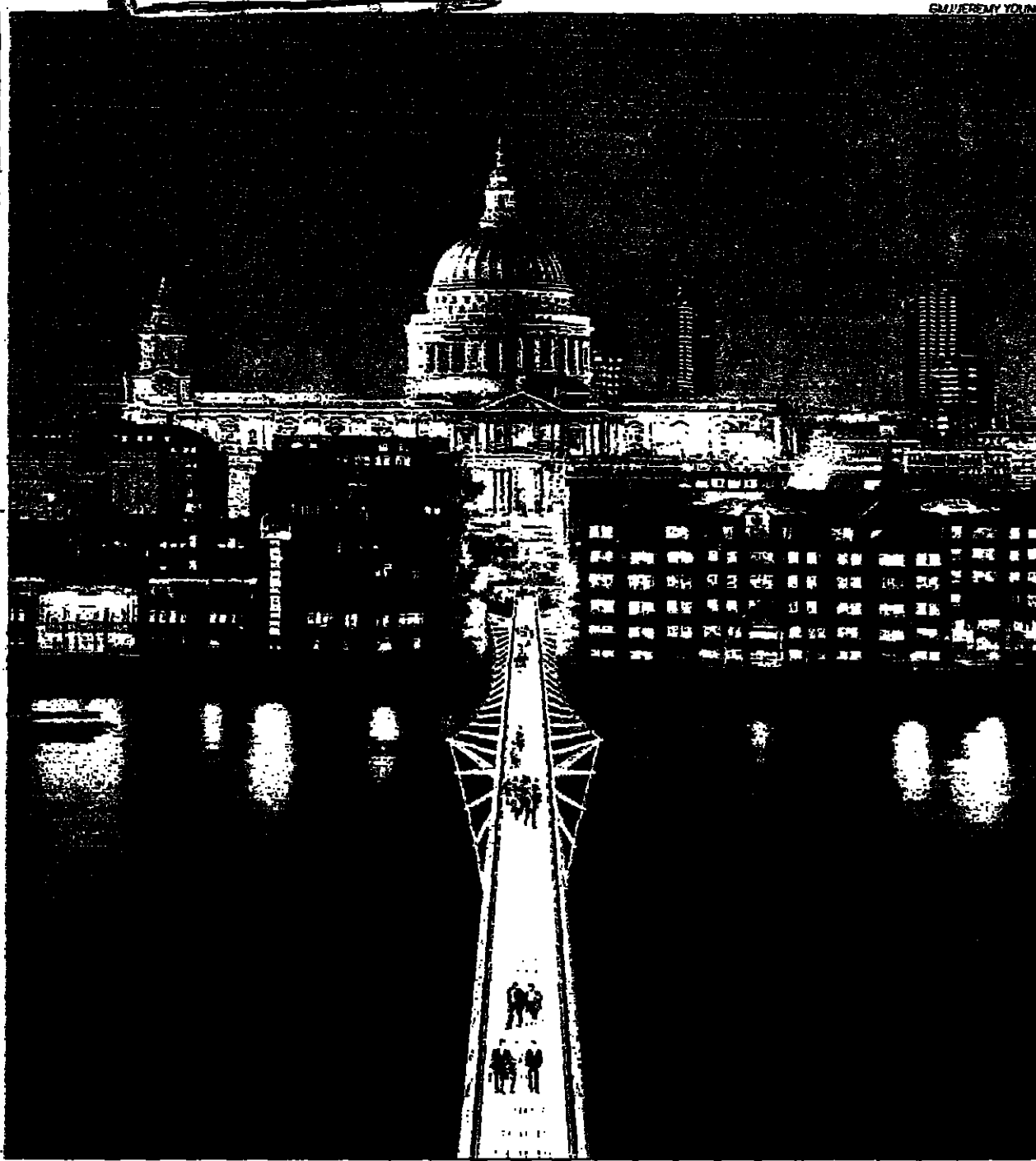
— such as the retirement of Eric Cantona — and is a regular radio broadcaster. His appointment will be seen as a gesture towards the North, where hostility towards the perceived London focus of the Dome is strong. He still lives in his home town of Huddersfield and will travel the nation for inspiration.

Yesterday, visiting the Dome for the first time, he said: "I want to capture the mood of the time and what people make of the millennium. I'm not clear yet where it's going to take me — that's part of the excitement."

His style and appeal to the young are thought to have influenced his appointment, which is being funded by the Poetry Society's Poetry Places lottery scheme. Schoolchildren recently voted him their second favourite for Poet Laureate, after Seamus Heaney.

Yesterday the New Millennium Experience Company announced three new sponsorship deals — with Typhoo, Kodak and Mars — bringing the total to £144 million, just short of the £150 million target. It also said that 210,000 free tickets to the Dome would be offered to Greenwich residents.

The work hinges on the ability of the bees to pick up dust and airborne chemicals on their bodies. Trace levels of TNT, the explosive commonly used in landmines, can be found in the air around the buried weapons. It may also be absorbed from the soil



"Blade of light": the bridge is expected to carry four million people a year between St Paul's and the new Tate Gallery



On site yesterday: Sir Norman Foster and John Prescott

## Thames footbridge will be a lifesaver

By MARK HENDERSON

LONDON'S first new bridge across the Thames for more than a century is to have an innovative anti-suicide design. Curving balustrades will make it almost impossible for anyone to attempt to leap to their death.

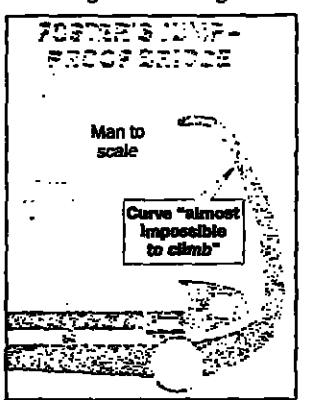
Construction began yesterday on the £16 million Millennium Bridge, which received a £7 million lottery grant. The architect Sir Norman Foster, who designed the footbridge with the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro and the engineer Professor Chris Wise, said: "The contoured shape of the hand-rail makes it almost impossible to climb."

The low-level suspension bridge, which will link St Paul's Cathedral and the Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, will be supported by stainless-steel balustrades that will curve away from the pedestrians. The balustrades' 5ft height and curve mean that only the most determined would be able to climb over. The four million people a year expected to use the bridge will not, however, have their views of the river-

side disturbed by high safety fences.

When it opens next April it will be London's first footbridge since Roman times and the first new bridge in Central London since Tower Bridge in 1894. At night it will be lit up to span the Thames with a "blade of light".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, officially launched construction yesterday. A second footbridge is being built with Millennium Commission funding upriver, beside the railway track on Hungerford Bridge.



## Scientists train bees to detect landmines

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HONEY bees are being trained by scientists to detect landmines in the hope that they can help clear vast areas where the deadly weapons have been buried and forgotten.

The work hinges on the ability of the bees to pick up dust and airborne chemicals on their bodies. Trace levels of TNT, the explosive commonly used in landmines, can be found in the air around the buried weapons. It may also be absorbed from the soil

into the pollen of flowering plants and picked up by the bees as they forage for nectar. The bees can then be screened for explosive chemicals on their return to the hive.

Jerry Bromenshenk, a bee expert at the University of Montana at Missoula and one of the team, said: "Bees are like flying dust mops. Wherever they go, they pick up dust, airborne chemicals and other samples on their fuzzy, statically charged bodies."

The scientists are also training bees to sniff out TNT chemicals by teaching them to link the smell of

explosives with the smell of sugary substances. New bee colonies are given feeders with sugary water tainted with a marker chemical. The feeders have then been moved further away from the hive and eventually removed altogether.

Dr Bromenshenk said the bees

www.demine.org Wilson Institute for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance  
www.milwars.org The Mine Warfare Association

were found foraging in areas where the marker chemical had been put down before returning to the hive.

Susan Bender, of the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said: "The beauty of this approach is that bees are indigenous to nearly every climate on earth and there are beekeepers everywhere. You won't need a million-dollar piece of equipment and extensive training. The countries where landmines are a problem typically don't have those kinds of resources."

The Red Cross estimates that between 80 million and 120 million landmines are buried across the world, notably in Angola and Cambodia. An average of 60 people are maimed or killed by them every day.

Researchers at the Natural Resources Institute — part of the University of Greenwich — in Malvern, Worcestershire, have developed tiny antennae to attach to bees so that they can be tracked by radar.

Alan Smith, of the institute's radar entomology group, said: "You can tell the range and direction of a bee every three seconds."

## The hottest barbecue offers are in Sainsbury's freezer.

Buy 1 get 1 Free.



Sainsbury's 30 Frozen Thick Pork Sausages 1.5kg £3.79, Birds Eye Pork 1/4 Pounders x 4 454g £1.99, Sainsbury's Frozen Beef Burgers x 8 454g £1.99.

Sainsbury's

VALUE  
TO SHOUT ABOUT

OFFERS END 6TH MAY 1999. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAVACENTRES. SOME LINES AVAILABLE AT LARGER STORES ONLY. PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFERS EXCLUDE SAINSBURY'S 'LOCAL' AND 'CENTRAL' STORES. WE'D BE INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS. WWW.SAINSBURY.CO.UK



egg: Individual Money Matters

Savings  
Check Balance  
Transfer Funds  
E-mail Egg

Net a great savings interest rate

6.0%

gross p.a. / AER

How?

- Apply online at [www.egg.com](http://www.egg.com)
- You can start saving with just £1
- Your interest rate, including the introductory bonus, is guaranteed to remain at least 0.5% gross p.a. above base rate until 1/1/00
- You get access to your savings — without notice or penalty — over the phone, by post or on the Internet 24 hours a day
- You can choose the Cashcard option and still get 5.5% gross p.a. / AER interest
- If you don't have access to the Internet we can get you going with Egg's Internet service and a great deal on a PC, just call 08456 000 292
- You can check your balance and transfer funds by phone and over the Internet
- You can find full details of the account on our web site

apply online now

[www.egg.com](http://www.egg.com)

Interest rate subject to variation. Rates correct at 27.4.99. Gross rates quoted are the rates we have agreed to pay you (contractual rates) before the deduction of income tax at the specified rate. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates the contractual interest rate when paid and compounded each year. This is intended to assist comparison with other interest bearing accounts. Withdrawals can be paid into your nominated bank account via BACS in three working days. For withdrawals by phone or post we can also send a cheque first class. Withdrawals by phone and Internet are subject to security limits. Cashcard withdrawals are limited to £500 per day. Up to six free Cashcard withdrawals per year. Telephone calls may be monitored and/or recorded. Application available only through the Internet. Egg is a division of Prudential Banking plc. Prudential Banking plc is registered in England and Wales. Registered Office 142 Holborn Bars, London, EC1N 2NH. Registered number 259942.



This week in  
The Saturday TimesCHRISTOPHER  
MARTIN-  
JENKINS

The voice  
of cricket  
joins  
The Times  
Start  
reading  
him on  
Saturday

The Saturday Times  
Only 60p

# MPs demand revenge of the school swot

THOUSANDS of Britain's brightest children are being let down by their schools and ostracised by their classmates as "swots and boffins", according to MPs yesterday.

Successive governments have neglected the most able pupils in their efforts to raise standards in schools, according to the House of Commons Select Committee on Education. Even the literacy hour, introduced in primary schools this year, was not sufficiently flexible to cater for the clever.

The cross-party group called for a national strategy to enhance the potential of bright pupils. Among the suggestions were to teach top sixth-formers to teach top sixth-formers, via the Internet. Malcolm Wicks, the committee's chairman, said: "It would be ridiculous if the undiscovered Einstein or the undiscovered Mozart just had to plod through the A-level curriculum."

The six-month inquiry concluded that too many schools were unable or unwilling to cater to their brightest pupils. Some experts believed that up to 40 per cent of children should be considered "highly able" in one or more subjects.

Mr Wicks said: "As a nation, over the past 20 years we

Government  
accused of  
neglecting  
most able  
pupils, reports  
John O'Leary

have focused on overall standards and, quite properly, been concerned about children who are doing less well. That means there is a danger that Britain's brightest children sometimes get a raw deal. We must ensure that good minds, a precious asset, are encouraged and not neglected."

The MPs' report called for named individuals to be responsible for the brightest children in each school and local authority. But it rejected any single blueprint for teaching the most able, declaring that some would thrive in selective schools, while others would do better in comprehensives.

The committee said schools should be able to provide the stimulation that the most able children needed. Without suitable programmes, some

would become frustrated and even disruptive.

Better links between schools and universities were one key to improved provision for children who could easily do A-levels. Academics could set and mark dissertations to stretch teenagers at school.

Among other recommendations were better training for teachers to recognise and teach children of high ability, and more flexibility in initiatives such as the National Literacy Strategy to avoid boring the brightest children.

But the report noted that first there must be a change in attitude regarding the education of bright children. One group that supports gifted children told the committee that it was not "cool" to be bright in many schools. Able children were dismissed as "swots".

Mr Wicks said bright children were sometimes bullied and ostracised. "Maybe this is something to do with a society in which intellectual figures are derided."

But the report insists that schools should remember that highly able children were still in their youth. They should be allowed to enjoy their childhood and not be treated as "brains on legs".



Students of self-hypnosis: from left, Matthew Chapman, Kirsty McGreany, Lindsey Lowe and Daniella Jones

## Hypnosis beats exam stress

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE headmaster of a comprehensive school in Cheshire turned to a hypnotist for help when a group of GCSE pupils complained of examination stress. The students, aged 15 and 16, said that a paralysing anxiety left them unable to revise.

Graham Nelmes, head of the 1,230-pupil Priestnall School, in Heaton Mersey, near Stockport, invited Anne Jakubowska, 50, a qualified hypnotist, to the school to hypnotise them.

She conducted three one-hour sessions with the group of two boys and five girls, using her soothing voice and the power of imagination to encourage

them to unburden themselves and learn to relax.

Mrs Jakubowska hopes to be invited back to the school and that the sessions might become an annual feature in the run-up to examinations. She said that the kind of hypnosis she specialised in bore little resemblance to the theatricality of stage hypnotists.

"Hypnosis has nothing magical about it," she said. "We do not dangle anything and we don't put anybody under. They just allow themselves to become pleasantly relaxed."

"We had three sessions where we worked with the power of positive suggestion, concentrating on improving their study skills and how to help them control their anxieties."

Each pupil was given a 20-minute tape recording to switch on whenever they felt under stress.

The school turned to Mrs Jakubowska because she was a former member of the parent-teacher association. She said that the improving powers of self-hypnosis had helped her two sons, both former pupils, in their studies, one of them becoming head boy.

Dr Nelmes said he was not aware of any other school using the services of a trained hypnotist.

He said: "We have a number of ways of preparing students for exams and this is just one more. The students have found it quite useful as a way of taking their minds off the pressures involved."

## Maths pupils are worse than feared

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

PRIMARY schools appear unlikely to hit ambitious targets for mathematics after government advisers admitted that gaps in 11-year-olds' knowledge is greater than ministers thought.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, attributed a 3 per cent drop in national test results last summer to the introduction of mental arithmetic tests. A subsequent analysis by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has shown that they were responsible for only about a third of the decline.

Nick Tate, the QCA chief executive, said ministers and officials had assumed that the unexpected dip, the first in five years of testing, was due to schools' inexperience in preparing children for mental arithmetic questions. "It was a perfectly reasonable assumption to make that this was the major factor. It was a contributory factor, but not the most significant one."

The authority's evaluation of the tests showed a more general decline in performance at a time when a 4 per cent improvement was needed to maintain progress towards the Government's target. Mr Blunkett has staked his reputation on 75 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching the expected level for their age by 2001, but last year only 59 per cent did so.

Coming less than a week be-

### SUM TOTALS

There were 20 questions in the 30-minute mental arithmetic test, which will be similar this year. Pupils were asked to divide nine by three and add seven, and to calculate half of 3.6. Another question asked: "Alex paid for a tape with a £5 note and received £1.25 change. How much did the tape cost?"

fore the start of this year's tests, the disclosure underlines the precarious state of the Government's standards agenda. However, Mr Tate said: "It would be disastrous for anyone in the education system to assume that we cannot do better than we are currently doing. We have to assume that there is potential for continuous improvement. We don't know what the results are going to be like this year, but we hope they are going to improve."

Martin Ripley, the QCA's principal manager for test development and administration, acknowledged that test results inevitably tended to "plateau" after initial improvement. But he said that pre-testing suggested that children were better prepared in mental arithmetic this year and that government guidelines on the teaching of numeracy should start to have an effect.

## Sailor vanishes from lost yacht

By PAUL WILKINSON, NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

A BOAT belonging to a solo yachtsman who set off on a trip of about 15 miles has been found drifting, empty, more than 400 miles away.

Peter Bloomer, 51, an experienced amateur sailor, left the Neptune Marina at Ipswich aboard his 33ft boat, *Tropical Spirit*, at lunchtime on Saturday, April 17. He told staff that he planned to sail down the coast to Walton on the Naze, Essex, to explore coastal creeks, staying away overnight.

When he had not returned by Monday, April 19, an extensive search of the East Anglian coast was made, but nothing was found. Ports in France, Belgium and The Netherlands were alerted in case Mr Bloomer had decided to head for the Continent.

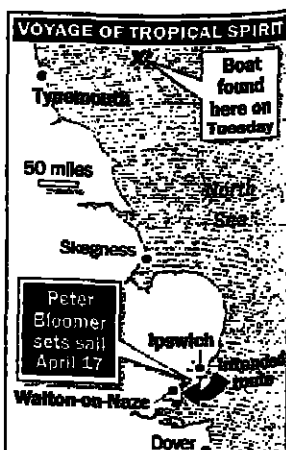
His single-masted sloop was not seen again until two days ago, when it was sighted 130 miles north-east of Tynemouth in Northumberland by a Ministry of Agriculture fisheries protection aircraft on a routine patrol. The sails were up but no one was at the helm.

HMS Leeds Castle, a fish-

eries protection vessel, went to the scene and found Mr Bloomer's passport, a diary and his mobile telephone, but no sign of him.

A Coastguard spokesman said yesterday: "There are no obvious clues about what may have happened to him. We may have to assume that he went overboard and has drowned."

Mr Bloomer, who runs a shipping company, Concept Caribbean, in Felixstowe, Suffolk, is married with two sons, aged 19 and ten.



# BEST BUYS

Unbeatable  
value from

THE  
COMET  
PRICE  
index

this Bank Holiday  
weekend



SHARP

21" FASTEXT TV

● 51cm visible screen

● SCART socket

● 40 channels

Model 51DT25H, In-store £199.99

SKU: 307266

SAVE

£20

VOUCHER

£179.99



SONY 4 HEAD NIMAM STEREO VIDEO

● Videoplus™ ● Programme Delivery Control

● 2 SCART sockets, Model SLVE730

was £249.99 previously £259.99, £279.99

In-store £229.99 SKU: 367680

SAVE

£80

VOUCHER

£199.99

NEW Cellnet

EASYLIFE "THE ULTIMATE FONE" GIFT PACK

● Philips Diga prepay digital mobile phone ● Battery and charger

● Free "Grid 99" Grand Prix video ● Includes £10 calling credit

Model CELLNET EASYLIFE - THE ULTIMATE FONE SKU: 412060

£99.99

WIN VIP TICKETS TO

THE BRITISH OR ITALIAN

GRAND PRIX

## Goodmans

HOME CINEMA PACKAGE

● 28" NIMAM STEREO TV

Includes stand/68cm visible screen

Model 285NS, In-store £319.98

● HOME CINEMA SOUND KIT

3 Surround Sound modes

Bass boost

Model DPL905, In-store £149.99

PACKAGE SKU: 422040

● FREE 4 HEAD NIMAM

STEREO VIDEO

Model VN9000

normally £129.99

£469

6 MONTHS INTEREST

FREE OPTION

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET



VENTURER CD MICRO HI-FI

● Attachable speakers

● Mains/battery operated

● AM/FM radio

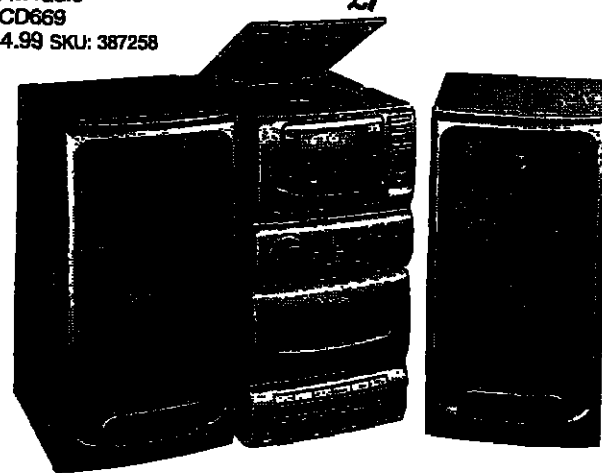
Model CD689

was £44.99 SKU: 387258

SAVE

£7

£37.99



COMET

YOU CAN EVEN

ORDER BY PHONE

You can order any of these

products over the phone. We'll

deliver it to your home or

workplace.

0845 60 26638

WE PROMISE THE

LOWEST PRICES

The Comet Price Promise guarantees

that if you buy any product from Comet,

then within 14 days find the same offer

on sale locally at a lower price, we'll

willingly refund the difference, PLUS

10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in

store for full details.

VISIT THE COMET WEBSITE

www.comet.co.uk

Visit our new website for home shopping,

our daily Specials, Business Services,

and buying tips. You can even check out

the latest in design with our objects of

desire page.

C-COMET

CONVENIENT

BANK HOLIDAY

OPENING HOURS

All Comet stores are open from 10am-

8pm on bank holidays from 10am-8pm.

Open Bank Holiday Monday 10am-8pm.

# COMET

We're positive we can help

THE COMET PRICE: The Comet in South Wales do not show savings in store. All items subject to availability. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of payments = 5 months at £119.99. Total payable = Cash Price 0% APR or for 48 months at £124.99 per month. Total amount payable = £5999.52. 25.9% APR. Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 5 equal monthly payments, 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £399.99, Deposit 10% = £3



هكذا من الأصل

# exam stress

## maths pupils are worse than feared

### Sailor vanishes from lost yacht



The new left hand drive Beetle

00 028



# CITROËN XSARA

**NOTHING MOVES YOU LIKE A CITROËN**

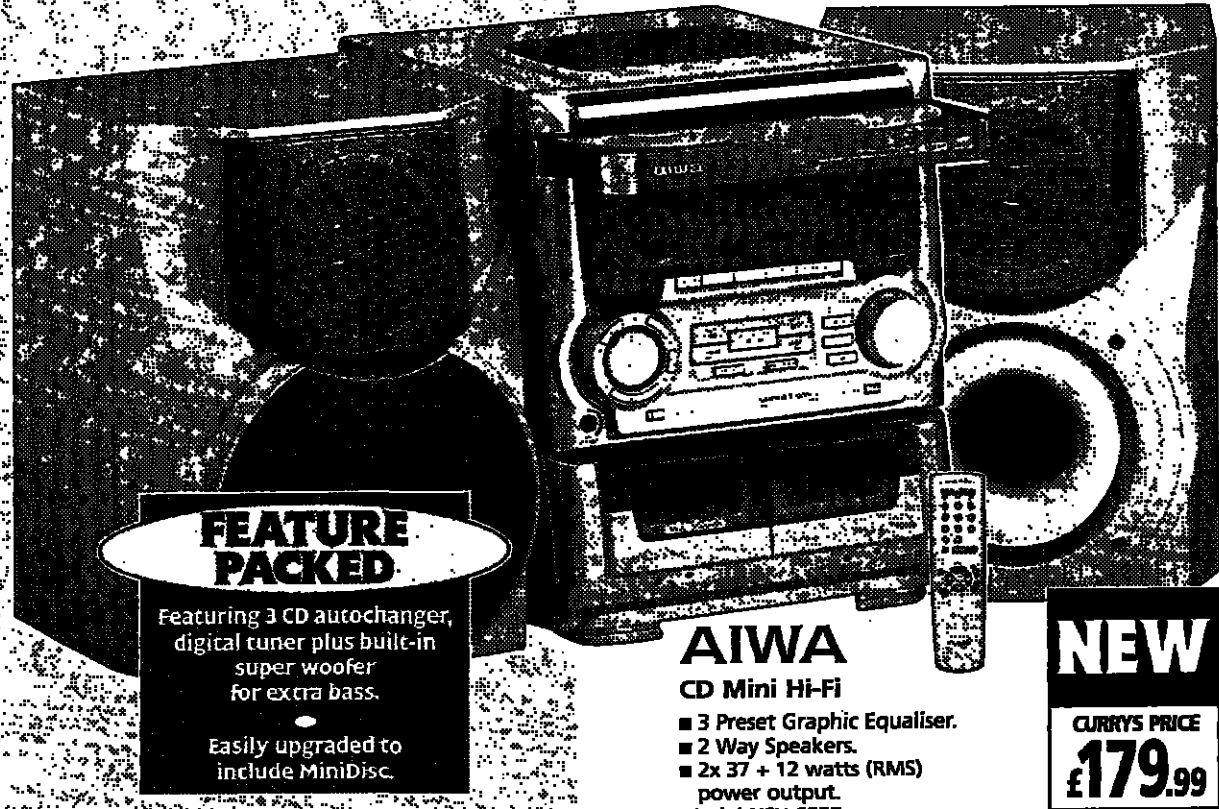
Britain's Biggest Hi-Fi Stores

# Currys

The Choice  
for you

## BANK HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS

HURRY! MUST END TUESDAY



**FEATURE PACKED**

Featuring 3 CD autochanger, digital tuner plus built-in super woofer for extra bass.

Easily upgraded to include MiniDisc.

**AIWA**

CD Mini Hi-Fi

- 3 Preset Graphic Equaliser.
- 2 Way Speakers.
- 2x 37 + 12 watts (RMS) power output.

Model NSX-5555.

**NEW**

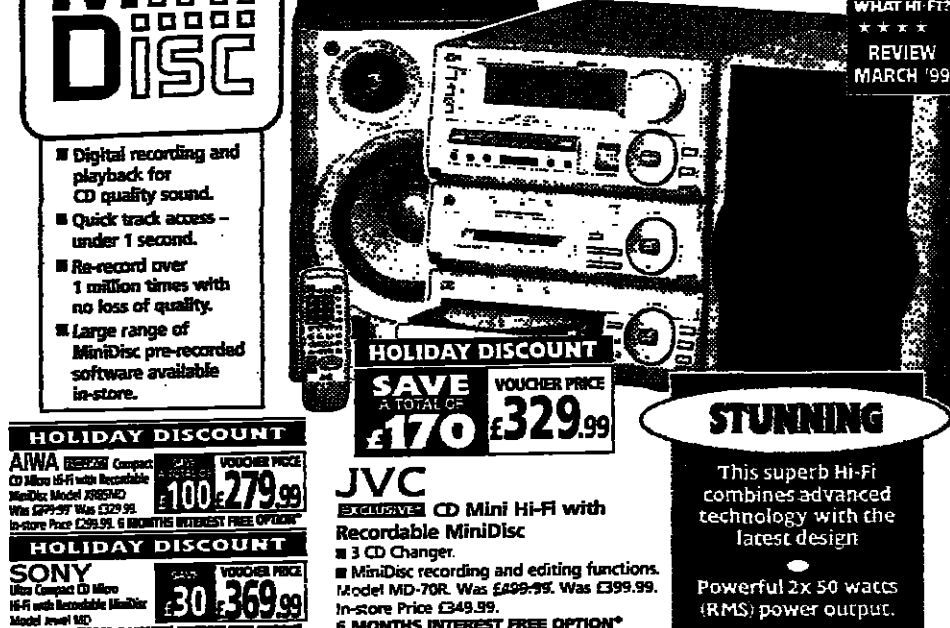
CURRYS PRICE

**£179.99**

Mini Hi-Fi **SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120**

BRAND	MODEL	CD	MINI HI-FI	DISCOUNT	NEW CURRYS PRICE
GRUNDIG	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£30	£69.99
GRUNDIG	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£50	£79.99
GRUNDIG	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£40	£129.99
AIWA	Model NSX-5555	Yes	Yes	NEW	£149.99
PANASONIC	Model SC-222	Yes	Yes	NEW	£249.99
SONY	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£100	£299.99
SONY	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£120	£379.99
TECHNICS	Model SC-555	Yes	Yes	£499.99	

Hi-Fi Systems **SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £170**



**MiniDisc**

- Digital recording and playback for CD quality sound.
- Quick track access - under 1 second.
- Re-record over 1 million times with no loss of quality.
- Large range of MiniDisc pre-recorded software available in-store.

**HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

**SAVE UP TO £170**

**£329.99**

**STUNNING**

This superb Hi-Fi combines advanced technology with the latest design.

Powerful 2x 50 watts (RMS) power output.

**JVC**

CD Mini Hi-Fi with Recordable MiniDisc

- 2 CD Changers
- MiniDisc recording and editing functions.
- Model MD-70R. Was £499.99. In-store Price £349.99.

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

Lowest Prices  
on the spot

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete new boxed and in stock, within 7 days in a local shop. We'll match it on the spot.

Demonstration Rooms  
for the latest technology

Specialist designed rooms offering the perfect environment to experience the latest in digital entertainment.

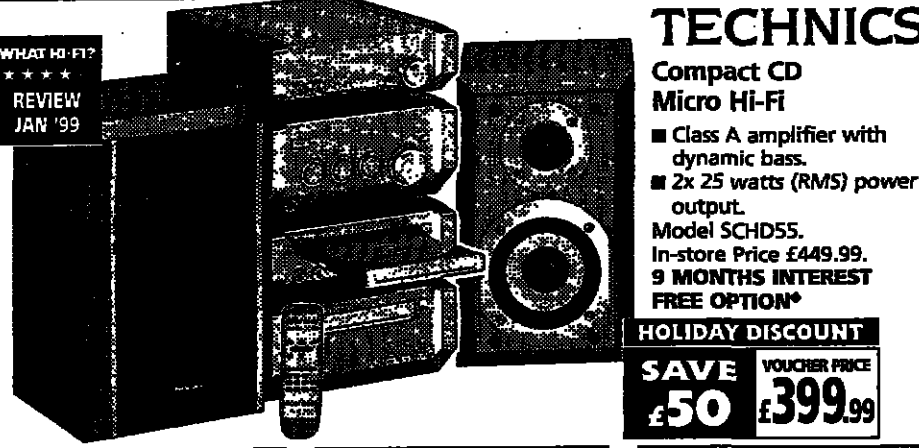
Faster, better care  
for your product

Our trained technicians are on standby for efficient service in your home. In-store repair shops are open seven days a week, and there's even a 24hr helpline on 0870 545454.

Shopping made easy

With late night opening, Sunday shopping and easy parking, phone 0990 500099 for your nearest store. You can even order direct on 0500 304304.

Compact Micro Hi-Fi **SAVE UP TO £50**



**TECHNICS**

Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi

- Class A amplifier with dynamic bass.
- 2x 25 watts (RMS) power output.

Model SCHD55. In-store Price £449.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

**SAVE £50**

**£399.99**

BRAND	MODEL	CD	MINI HI-FI	DISCOUNT	NEW CURRYS PRICE
MATSUI	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£10	£39.99
PANASONIC	Model SC-222	Yes	Yes	£10	£139.99
AIWA	Model NSX-5555	Yes	Yes	NEW	£99.99
SONY	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£20	£149.99
AMSTRAD	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£50	£99.99
SONY	Model M4	Yes	Yes	NEW	£199.99

Hi-Fi with Turntable **SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120**



**SONY**

Dolby Pro-Logic CD Hi-Fi with Turntable

- Pro-Logic Surround Sound.
- 5 CD Autochanger.
- MiniDisc Compatible.
- Model X880. Was £599.99. Was £549.99. In-store Price £499.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

**SAVE UP TO £120**

**£479.99**

BRAND	MODEL	CD	MINI HI-FI	DISCOUNT	NEW CURRYS PRICE
AIWA	Model NSX-5555	Yes	Yes	NEW	£199.99
AIWA	Model NSX-5555	Yes	Yes	£50	£349.99
SONY	Model M4	Yes	Yes	£30	£399.99

Portable MiniDisc **SAVE UP TO £100**



**SONY**

MiniDisc Player

- Remote control headphones.
- Available in Orange, Blue or Silver.
- 10 second Anti-Shock memory.
- Model MD-E25 ORANGE. Was £169.99. In-store Price £149.99.

**HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

**SAVE UP TO £100**

**£129.99**

**SONY**

Portable Recordable MiniDisc Player

- 10 second Anti-Shock memory.
- Model MD-E25 ORANGE. Was £169.99. In-store Price £149.99.

6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

MiniDisc Separates **SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120**



**HITACHI**

Recordable MiniDisc Player

- MiniDisc Recording/Editing.
- Log Dial Control.
- Model RM100. Was £299.99. In-store Price £199.99.

**HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

**SAVE UP TO £120**

**£179.99**

Portable CD Systems **SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £40**



**PANASONIC**

CD Radio Cassette

- Model RXDT 37. Was £139.99. In-store Price £129.99.

**HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

**SAVE UP TO £40**

**£99.99**

**PANASONIC**

Portable CD System

- Digital tuner with 20 presets.
- 20 watts (RMS) power output.
- Model RXD52. Was £119.99.

Personal CD Players **SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE**



**HITACHI**

10 Second Anti-Shock Personal CD Player

- Programmable CD.
- Model DAP140. Was £69.99.

**HOLIDAY DISCOUNT**

**SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE**

**£49.99**

In-Car **SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE**



**WHARFEDALE**

In-Car CD Tuner

- Digital Tuner. Bass/Treble Control.
- 4x 30 Watts Max Power.
- Model WCD-712. Was £199.99.

**HALF PRICE**

**£99.99**



**PHILIPS**

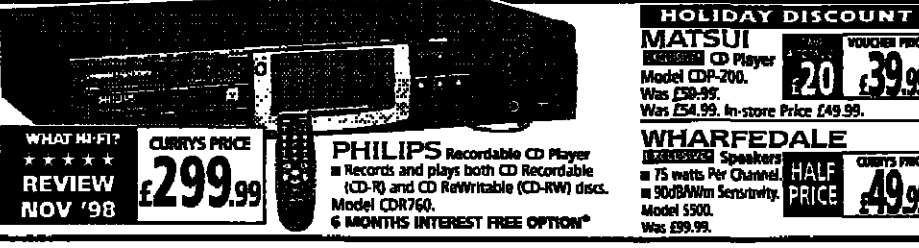
Rechargeable FM Cordless Stereo Headphones

- Adjustable tuning control.
- Rechargeable batteries included.
- Model 550FM. Was £69.99.

**SAVE £20**

**£49.99**

Hi-Fi Separates **SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE**



**PHILIPS**

Recordable CD Player

- 15 watts for Quick Charge.
- 300Watts Security.
- Model CD760. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

**HALF PRICE**

**£299.99**

EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS. HOW IT WORKS: Access to interest free of up to £1200 in full before payment according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works' document in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £499.99. APR 27.7% For loans values £1000 and over, minimum deposit is 10%. Subject to status where you open a Currys Premier Advantage Account. Minimum credit guarantee available on request from: Dept FPM, Wharfedale Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 7JG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland.)

Tebbit was d after l

Adverts are the price of free phone calls

Call free no your business be going any

0800 22 4

The Big Number

All The Phone Companies Together



# Tebbit surgeon was dismissed after blunders

A DISTINGUISHED surgeon who was made an OBE for helping to save Lord Tebbit's wife after the Brighton bombing was sacked after a series of life-threatening blunders during operations, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

David Skidmore perforated a woman's artery during keyhole surgery to remove her gall bladder the day after he lacerated another patient's liver during another keyhole operation. The woman whose artery was pierced required emergency heart resuscitation and a blood transfusion to stop her bleeding to death.

The operations were the culmination of a catalogue of errors that caused "major anxieties" among Mr Skidmore's colleagues at the Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent, in 1997, said Paul Key, medical director of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

He told the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: "It was not one colleague but several raising concerns. Both myself and the clinical director decided we would recommend sus-

Senior medical figure claims victimisation over criticism of NHS, writes Joanna Bale

pension leading to dismissal. As medical director I had a duty to act."

Dr Key said he realised that two operations had gone wrong on consecutive days only when the husband of one of the women told him that the patients had been in adjoining beds and had been comparing their ordeals.

Mr Skidmore, 59, who was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct in 1997, was also accused of lying to patients and colleagues to play down the blunders. Dr Key added: "Mr Skidmore was a senior consultant. Consultants are regularly unsupervised and it is imperative that, in their dealings with the trust, other professionals and patients, they observe complete integrity."

He added: "The findings of the chief executive, upheld on appeal, meant that Mr Skidmore had on several occasions told untruths which were compounded by his persistence in them over a two-day disciplinary hearing."

Earlier in the hearing, Mr Skidmore's lawyer, Anthony Temple, QC, said the surgeon, who lectures at University College and Middlesex hospitals in London, had been the victim of a malicious campaign because of his criticism of hos-

pital management both before and after NHS reforms.

The hearing, in which Mr Skidmore is claiming unfair dismissal, is being regarded by some as a challenge by doctors about who should run hospitals — senior medical staff or non-medical managers.

Mr Skidmore is seeking reinstatement, claiming that the complaints against him do not amount to misconduct because six cases questioning his clinical competence were rejected by the GMC.

Mr Skidmore, who worked at Joyce Green Hospital from 1980, as well as West Hill and North Kent hospitals, has frequently criticised the management of NHS hospitals and trusts. In 1990 he criticised the then South East Thames Regional Health Authority for overspending its budget and seeking credit from suppliers.

The hearing is expected to last three weeks.



Bernadine Coady resting after the "painless" operation on her foot

# Trance helps patient to blank out pain

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NURSING home matron returned to work yesterday, two days after a painful operation on her foot under self-hypnosis.

Bernadine Coady, 58, who was worried about having an anaesthetic because she has a trait of sickle-cell anaemia, put herself into a trance, a technique she learnt five years ago while studying for a diploma course at the British School of Hypnosis.

Mrs Coady, who came to Britain 30 years ago from Belize to train as a nurse, had the operation to reconstruct the bones in her foot so that she could walk without pain. Despite a warning that the procedure would involve cutting muscles and tendons and sawing through bone, she decided against having an anaesthetic because of her condition, in which the blood can easily be starved of oxygen. She had originally booked a hypnotist to come to the Fitzwilliam Hospital, in Peterborough. Ahmed Shair, her surgeon, had agreed the arrangement with the hospital, but took the precaution of having an anaesthetist on standby in case Mrs Coady was unable to bear the pain.

At the last minute the hypnotist failed to show up and Mrs Coady decided to hypnotise herself. "I imagined my leg as an iron rod and that when I heard the instruments, it was them knocking against the iron bar. I

said to myself that, if I had any pain, I was going to liken it to waves lashing against a sea wall. Every time it happened, I thought it was the pain going away, like the tide."

Mrs Coady, from Wimbleson, Cambridgeshire, said: "I worked on the pain. I was aware of everything that was going on. This is the power of the mind, or madness. If surgeons could open their minds to it, you would find more people doing it."

Mr Shair said that he had never performed an operation in such a manner in his 20 years as a surgeon. "She was in absolute control."

The operation requires an overnight stay to recover, but Mrs Coady was able to go home hours later. Kenneth Phillips, a retired GP who works in Harley Street, said all hypnosis was self-hypnosis. "People who become hypnotised have to be capable of transferring their conscious mind somewhere else." He would like to see hypnosis used more commonly in surgery. "Every anaesthetic is a risk but, with hypnosis, there is virtually no risk." There is also less bleeding.

**LINKS**  
<http://www.hypnosis.org.uk/orgs.htm> Information and register of medical hypnosis organisations



Skidmore: accused of lying to patients

## Adverts are the price of free phone calls

By CHRIS AYRES

TELEPHONE bills could soon become a thing of the past for callers willing to interrupt their conversations every few minutes to listen to a commercial break.

Britain's first "free" national telephone service, Free2Talk, will be launched in July by Freedom Telecom, a little-known telephone company in which the television presenter Noel Edmonds is an investor. Freedom, run by a 26-year-old entrepreneur, Joshua Sayles, has spent £18 million setting up the service, which it will launch in partnership with the Energis telephone company.

An almost identical service provided by BT will go on trial next month in Bristol and Tyne and Wear, and is expected to be launched nationally later this year.

Customers who want to take advantage of either service will have to fill in a questionnaire, detailing their shopping habits, age, sex and income. They will then be given an access code.

Both services are likely to be aimed at young people, students and low-income households. Freedom's service is expected to play adverts every five minutes, while BT's will be every two minutes.

Similar services have proved a success in Stockholm, where a small company, GratisTel, has gained a 7 per cent market share.

## US girls find that thin is beautiful

By ALEX O'CONNELL

SKINNY teenage girls are more likely to go out with boys than their curvier peers, according to a new study.

A mere 19lb can be the difference between getting a date and missing out, says a report by Carolyn Halpern, an assistant professor of maternal and child health at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr Halpern, whose study set out to investigate the implications of body fat on sexual activity, said: "One reason adolescent girls are concerned about their weight is that they believe that being slim increases their chances of dating. Our data indicates they are right."

Researchers followed 200 white and black girls aged 13 and 14 for two years. They found that a girl of average height and weight in the group — around 5ft 3in tall and weighing 9 stone — was only half as likely to date as a girl of the same height and physical maturity weighing 7 stone 9lb.

However, the American findings seem to be out of kilter with the current British trend for normal-sized, healthy-looking teenage pop stars and actresses. Posters of the buxom 16-year-old pop singer, Billie, are currently on the bedroom walls of adolescent boys across the country.

Call free now or your business won't be going anywhere.



The Big Number

0808 22 4 2000

All The Phone Companies Together

[www.numberchange.org](http://www.numberchange.org)

# Half-price MOT with every major service.

## Major services from £59.99.<sup>1</sup>

Vauxhall Nova (all models) .....	£59.99
Ford Fiesta (all models 1989 onwards) .....	£59.99
Peugeot 106 (all models) .....	£59.99
Vauxhall Cavalier (all models 1988 onwards except V6) .....	£69.99

• 76 point check. • All makes of car covered. • Parts and labour guaranteed for 12,000 miles or 12 months<sup>2</sup>, whichever comes first. • All work carried out by qualified technicians.

Half-price MOT may be taken with the major service or at any time before 31st March 2000<sup>3</sup>.

## Save up to 20% on selected tyres.<sup>4</sup>



MICHELIN CLASSIC EXAMPLES ARE:

	WAS	NOW
175/70x13 TR Peugeot 306 1.9D 1997 .....	£54.99	£43.99
185/60x14 HR Ford Escort 1.6LX 1994 .....	£67.99	£54.39
195/60x14 HR Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0GLS 1994 .....	£78.99	£62.99



PIRELLI EXAMPLES ARE:

	WAS	NOW
185/60x14 HR Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Sport 1997 .....	£66.99	£53.49
185/55x15 VR Rover 214iS 1997 .....	£99.99	£79.99
205/55x15 VR Ford Mondeo Ghia 1998 .....	£121.99	£97.49



Phone 0345 361 361 now for a quote.

**HALFORDS**

WE GO THE EXTRA MILE.

GARAGE SERVICING

1 MOTs WILL BE CHARGED SEPARATELY IF REQUIRED. 2 THIS DOES NOT AFFECT YOUR STATUTORY RIGHTS. 3 OFFER APPLIES TO A MAJOR SERVICE TAKEN BEFORE 7.4.99. HALF-PRICE MOT MAY BE TAKEN ANY TIME UNTIL 31.3.2000. 4 AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE WILL BE MADE FOR VALVES AND BALANCING ON EACH TYRE. HALFORDS LIMITED, ICKNIELD STREET DRIVE, WASHFORD WEST, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B98 0DE.



## Westminster must not look down on Scots

Life will never be the same again at Westminster. The election of the Scottish parliament in a week's time will not only change politics for ever north of the border, it will also have far-reaching, yet little appreciated, consequences for the House of Commons.

Recent polls suggest that around 15 members of the Commons (plus nine former MPs) are likely to become members of the parliament in Edinburgh. Most of them will probably be part-timers at Westminster, like some Northern Ireland MPs are now.

But the position of all 72 Scottish MPs has changed. This is not only about the long-debated, important, yet unresolved West Lothian question, the anomaly whereby Scottish MPs can vote on health, education and other devolved matters affecting people in England, but not their constituents north of the border.

Much of the day-to-day postbags of MPs concern just those domestic issues which are being devolved. So should a member of the Commons pass on a letter to the member of the Scottish parliament who will, after all, represent the same area? There may be problems even if the two members are of the same party, given the prickly egos of many politicians. Also, what will the Scottish MPs do at Westminster? Not all are like Gordon Brown or Robin Cook. There are several poor quality MPs from in and around Glasgow who have little to say on national, as opposed to devolved, issues.

Scotland will have a mosaic of representation. As well as local councillors, Scots will, after May 6, also have one constituency member, and seven regional list members, of the Scottish parliament.

After June 10, Scots will be represented by eight members of the European Parliament. But who should constituents contact? What does rep-

resentation now mean? This issue was addressed at a recent seminar organised by the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Scottish Council Foundation. One theme was "signposts, not no-entry signs", so information should be available about the differing roles of elected members and their specific interests, but there should be no rigid demarcation about who handles what issue.

I doubt if this will be sustainable in the long-term: in Germany, where there is a similar multi-layered structure, most constituency case work is handled at the local or regional/lander levels rather than nationally.

The current view of representation will have to be re-examined. As Matthew Taylor, director of the IPPR, has argued "to compensate for their lack of job satisfaction, MPs have invested more and more time in individual case work for constituents. But while MPs spend an average of more than 30 hours a week on casework which would be better dealt with by local councillors or a strengthened ombudsman, other important roles are largely overlooked".

MPs should, as Mr Taylor argues, see themselves more as civic entrepreneurs, not just dealing with individual cases but also getting people together (councils, businesses and community groups). The Scottish parliament will also have lessons for Westminster, not just in the semi-circular design of the chamber, or electronic voting, or the "family-friendly" working hours. The proportional electoral system should ensure that no one party has an overall majority, so the emphasis will be on consensus building, co-operation and consultation. Scotland is a laboratory of democracy, and Westminster should not be superior, as it usually is, about the experience of other legislatures.

Peter Riddell  
ON POLITICS

# Blame it on Basildon

Tory turmoil has its roots in Essex  
man's input to party's focus groups, writes  
Andrew Pierce

BASILDON — the 1980s stronghold of Thatcherism — was an unlikely trigger for the biggest crisis of William Hague's leadership.

It was in the home of Essex Man that 12 disillusioned Tory voters gathered round a table in a private house to discuss why they had abandoned the party.

The health service dominated the 90-minute discussion shortly before Easter, the last focus group in target seats including Basildon, Redditch, Leeds and Ipswich. The voters met under the watchful eye of ICM, the Tories' polling organisation. Each person was paid £20.

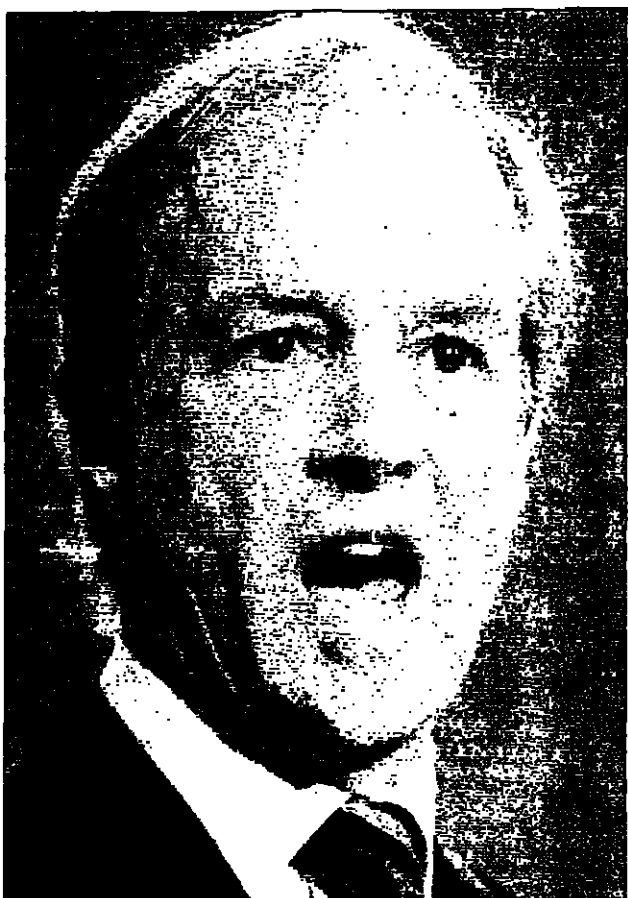
But it proved the most politically expensive focus group the Tories have commissioned. Peter Lilley analysed the thoughts of the Basildon voters, and decided his party had no option but to go for broke — the link with Margaret Thatcher and the free market must be severed.

The result has been the biggest revolt at Conservative party headquarters in living memory. Mr Lilley, once regarded as one of the most thoughtful and Thatcherite figures in the party, is now an isolated and forlorn figure, the brow beneath his thinning fair hair furrowed in fear.

Only Danny Finkelstein, the former SDP member who is head of policy, and David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, are prepared to stand up for Mr Lilley, the blond who dropped the bombshell.

The other two former SDP members now running Central Office — Andrew Cooper, head of operations and Rick Nye, head of research — were sceptics in the first place. They are both furious that focus group research has been used to such disastrous effect.

Mutinous Tory MPs are now demanding Lilley's head in the next reshuffle. "He has to go," one former minister said last night. At headquar-



Lilley: the blond who dropped the bombshell



Hague: the leader who wants to ruffle feathers

### WHO SAID WHAT: THE ROAD TO A U-TURN

■ "Most Conservatives have always accepted that the public services are intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market." Peter Lilley, unannounced first draft of Rab Butler memorial lecture, circulated to Shadow Cabinet, April 15.

■ "We will only renew public confidence if we openly and emphatically accept that the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare." Peter Lilley, preview of Rab Butler lecture in *The Times*, April 19.

■ "In some public services there may

be some scope for introducing diversity and choice among providers of the service and for encouraging public-private partnerships." Peter Lilley, Rab Butler lecture, April 20.

■ "We believe that the private sector, in partnership with the public, can make an important new contribution to the health services in this country." William Hague, in *The Times*, April 23.

■ "Of course it ruffles a few feathers if you do that. But they will have to get unruffled because that is the way I

am going to carry on." William Hague, speaking on Radio 5 Live's *Sunday Breakfast* programme, April 26.

■ "The parliamentary party is in crisis over the Lilley speech." James Arbuthnot, Conservative Chief Whip, April 27.

■ "We will always be proud of Margaret Thatcher and we will always be champions of the free market..." William Hague, speech to Conservative activists, April 28.

ters his name is mud. Even Mr Hague last night tried to draw a line under the controversy by mentioning Mr Lilley only once in his speech.

"I cannot understand why Lilley made the speech or why he failed to consult us," a senior strategist said. "It is a mess, and it is a serious mess. There is great loyalty here to William Hague. I have no doubt he is as redoubtable a Thatcherite as anyone. It is perverse he has found himself in this mess. I can only think he was not properly focussed."

The decision to rewrite the party's philosophy was taken the previous week at the newly formed strategy group chaired by Mr Hague. James Arbuthnot, the Chief Whip, Mr Lilley, Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, and Michael Ancram, the party chairman, were present. They agreed to go on the offensive to try to ditch once and for all the perception that the party was hostile to the NHS. Mr Lilley, who had the Rab Butler lecture in his diary, was nominated.

Francis Maude would follow through with a commitment, which he had made countless times before but had been lost on the voters, to renew the Tories' pledge to match Labour's spending promises on the NHS.

It all went wrong. Mr Lilley showed only the first draft of the speech to Ann Widdecombe and Iain Duncan Smith, who run the health and social security portfolios.

They were to be given final texts but they never materialised. To the fury of both, the final version, which ignored

their objections, was pushed in the next day's papers.

Mr Lilley authorised the spin which continued throughout the week with the suggestion that the Tories would bury the party's Clause Four.

One Thatcherite frontbencher said last night: "If this is merely a matter of a presentational emphasis William Hague will keep most of his support. If it is not, and it is a serious shift in policy, he will not. It is as simple as that."

Leading article, page 23

## 'Private money will help the NHS'

BY ROLAND WATSON  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories insisted yesterday that they were as keen as ever to get more private money into the National Health Service.

After days of confusion about Conservative policy on opening public services to the market, Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, said it had not changed. She listed various ways in which she wanted to bring private money into the NHS, emphasising that they would only be additional to state spending, not a substitute for it.

Options being considered include tax concessions for those taking out private medical insurance, help for firms which offer employee insurance schemes and expanding the amount of building and refurbishment carried out under the Private Finance Initiative. She also proposed setting up a commission "to develop ways of adding commercial and charitable health provision on top of state provision".

Miss Widdecombe said: "We are trying to take a very broad view and look at a number of possibilities."

Miss Widdecombe, who was one of the senior Tories to criticise Peter Lilley at last week's Shadow Cabinet meeting over his speech distancing the party from Thatcherism, was addressing a press conference called by Conservative Central Office to try to draw a line under the episode. "There has never, ever been any suggestion, not under Margaret Thatcher, not under John Major, of privatising the health service. Peter Lilley was trying to dispel that myth and he was right to do so," she said.

But both she and Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, refused to endorse the views of Mr Lilley as laid out in the first draft of his Rab Butler memorial lecture in which he said the public services were "intrinsically unsuited to delivery via the market".

## Activists bemoan Lilley 'own goal'

BY MARK INGLEFIELD  
POLITICAL REPORTER

TORY activists yesterday expressed concern and dismay about the row dividing the Shadow Cabinet one week before the local elections.

Michael Buxton, Michael Howard's agent in his Folke-

stone and Hythe constituency, said that some party workers were unhappy about the genesis of the row in Peter Lilley's speech last weekend.

A constituency chairman in a Tory seat in the Midlands said his activists were furious. "We don't like it at all," he said. "The reaction here is very

strongly against Lilley and there is alarm about any detachment from Thatcherite policies. The problem is no one can identify what's happening and that does not make it easy to get across our message to voters."

Michael Heseltine's constituency chairman in Henley,

Michael McInnes, said he was very concerned at Mr Lilley's speech. "When I read it I thought, 'Oh God, not another own goal.'"

Jean Gibbons, acting chairman in Tom King's Bridgewater seat, said it was "not a good moment to be having these internal wrangles".

# STAPLES

The Office Superstore

## LOWEST PRICES EVER!

**DELUXE OPERATORS CHAIR**

- ✓ Lumbar Support
- ✓ Adjustable Arms
- ✓ Curved Seat
- ✓ **Scotchgard**

Blue (AN333203)  
Charcoal (AN333195)

**BLUE OR CHARCOAL**

Height Adjustment  
Gas-lift height adjustment

Posture Adjustment  
Springloaded backrest, floats or locks into chosen position

**STAPLES SPECIAL PRICE**

**£39.99**

**NEW**

**17" MONITOR**

**FANTASTIC FOR SPREADSHEETS**

**STAPLES SPECIAL PRICE**

**£125.79**

**150% ULTIMATE PRICE PROTECTION**

Show us a lower locally advertised price. We'll match it 100% PLUS give you 50% of the difference (up to £25) as a refund now or within 30 days of your purchase. Call or ask in store for full terms & conditions.

**OUR promise is the lowest price!**

**51 SUPERSTORES** FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE FREEPHONE **0800 328 8200**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK** MON to FRI 8am-8pm, SAT 9am-6pm, SUN 11am-4pm

*\*Special Special Price offers are available for a limited time until March. See May 1999. Available in-store only while stocks last. We reserve the right to limit quantities.*

**'Slashing the cost and hassle of running your office'**

## the rewards of SHOPPING at LIBERTY

### HAVE NEVER BEEN Greater.

VISIT REGENT STREET TODAY AND DISCOVER JUST HOW REWARDING THE NEW LIBERTY ACCOUNT CARD CAN BE. JUST SIGN UP AT ANY OF OUR TILL POINTS AND YOU'LL IMMEDIATELY GET 10% OFF ALL PURCHASES FOR ANY TWO DAYS IN MAY. FOR EVERY POUND SPENT, YOUR LIBERTY CARD ALSO OFFERS A FULL RANGE OF BENEFITS INCLUDING MAJOR DISCOUNTS, INVITATIONS TO SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND 10% OFF ALL SALE PRICES. AND AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, THE LIBERTY REWARDS PROGRAMME OFFERS A WIDE SELECTION OF EXCITING FREE GIFTS RANGING FROM SIGNED BOOKS BY AUTHORS SUCH AS TRICIA GUILD, TO ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS WITH TOP UK FASHION DESIGNERS AND EVEN A JOURNEY ON THE ORIENT-EXPRESS. SO, REWARD YOURSELF THIS MONTH, VISIT LIBERTY, REGENT STREET, LONDON.

10% OFF TWO DAYS SHOPPING

A HALF DAY COURSE AT PAULA PRYKE'S FLOWER SCHOOL

A TRIP FOR TWO ON THE ORIENT-EXPRESS

THE LIBERTY CARD IS SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF YOUR APPLICATION. APPLICANTS MUST BE OVER 18 YEARS OLD. CONDITIONS APPLY TO LIBERTY REWARDS. WITH 10% DISCOUNT DAYS EXCLUDE PURCHASES OF GIFT VOUCHERS, LIBERTY MONEY, WITHIN THE RESTAURANTS, BARS AND CAFE EXHIBITION MERCHANDISE AND CERTAIN CONCESSIONS. SEE IN STORE FOR DETAILS. DISCOUNT SHOPPING DAYS MUST BE TAKEN SEPARATELY. E-mail: customerservices@liberty-of-london.com

**LIBERTY**

Liberty. the art of the idiosyncratic.

# Wallace bridge for L

## Tories in split over stunt

## SNP changes

QUOTE of the day

Mike Dougan, the SNP's...  
"Independence is at the heart of the...  
...and always...  
...has been."

## SAVE

WAS £49.99  
**NOW £3**

- No monthly costs
- No contracts
- Just buy the Page

Free and

Page special offer now on...  
...Comet, John Lewis Department Store...  
...Tandy, Timpco, The Link, and other PageOn

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FREE...  
...visit our website at: [www.pageon.co.uk](http://www.pageon.co.uk)

**MINIC**

TAKE IN TOUCH STAY

هكذا من الأصل



ldon.  
Private  
money  
will help  
the NHS

# Wallace wary of bridge too far for Lib Dems

BY JASON ALLARDYCE AND MAGNUS LINKLATER

THE Liberal Democrats could sacrifice their commitment to abolishing university tuition fees as the price of forming a coalition with Labour in the Scottish parliament.

In an interview with *The Times*, Jim Wallace, the Scottish Lib Dem leader, refused to guarantee that a Lib-Lab deal would require the £1,000-a-year charges to be scrapped. His refusal is likely to spark a backlash within his party and among students given that a commitment to abolishing the fees is contained in its manifesto for the Scottish elections on May 6.

Until now, it seemed likely that a cross-party alliance would outvote Labour on the charges in the Edinburgh parliament because the Scottish National Party and Scots Tories are also committed to abolishing tuition fees.

But it now seems increasingly likely that a coalition deal could be reached between Labour and the Lib Dems which

would involve Labour promising further investment across Scottish education.

Asked if he would guarantee that a Lib-Lab government would scrap the fees, Mr Wallace said: "You are jumping the gun. I'm telling you that's our policy, that's what we want to get, along with every other policy in the manifesto."

In contrast, Mr Wallace has set out a clear pre-condition for a coalition with the SNP. He still argues that a deal is impossible unless the nationalists abandon their commitment to a referendum on Scottish independence in the first four-year term.

Mr Wallace is diffident about his working title during the election campaign as "the king-maker". Despite the fact that his party may be within a week of wielding the kind of power it has aspired to but failed to achieve for the better part of this century, Mr Wallace refuses to be drawn on what his precise terms are for

serving in a coalition government. He even prefers to quote the words of his Labour rival Donald Dewar rather than trust his own. "There's been a lot of speculation about what happens," he reads. "As far as I'm concerned I'm thinking about the 6th of May. The 7th of May will take care of itself."

"There are a number of options currently available. Until we see what the circumstances are, we've not selected one option above another. That would be foolish. Until we are in a position to do that, we will keep pushing our case and listening to the people of Scotland."

It is hardly the most electrifying quotation of the campaign, but Mr Wallace is well pleased with it. He describes it as "elegant". And it allows him to fence round the one question everyone wants an answer to.

But it is clear that he is fully prepared for the great day when, as he hopes, he will sit down with Labour and negoti-



Jim Wallace on the campaign trail in Dundee. On the horse-trading expected after the election, he says: "I'm not to be bought at any price"

ate for power. The one moment at which he became suddenly forthright was when he was asked whether Labour might simply refuse to negotiate, and carry on with a minority government.

"There would be a presumptuousness there," he warns. "A kind of arrogance that people despise about the Labour Party, who think they can have it all their own way even when the people haven't given them a majority to have it their own way. I don't think that would be the best recipe for stability."

So when will we know what the Liberal Democrats' conditions will be for joining a coalition Scottish government? Mr Wallace has the answer put: May 8. Not May 7, the day after the elections. "No decisions will be made that day," he says. "The one piece of advice I've had from Paddy Ashdown

is: don't make any decisions immediately after polling day, because you're far too tired. I want to get to my bed as early as possible." And which job will he be angling for in a future Scottish Cabinet? "Ha, you're not going to draw me on that," he says triumphantly.

"I'm not going to trade principles for a ministerial Mondoo." Not even a ministerial Jag? For a moment, a pause, and then a loud guffaw. "Certainly not," he says. "I'm not to be bought at any price."

Magnus Linklater, page 22

## Tories in split over stunt



Scotland's two main parties Tories clashed publicly over a controversial election campaign stunt which has threatened future party funding. The split came after *The Times* revealed that the party was facing legal action over its decision to produce 30,000 T-shirts bearing the slogan "FOUK Tuition Fees".

Annabel Goldie, the Scottish party's deputy leader, voiced the deep anger of traditional activists who found the stunt grossly offensive. The party's troubles deepened further last night when a spokeswoman for French Connection, which owns the trademark FCUK, confirmed that the company's lawyers had issued the Conservative Party with a letter demanding legal action. The company is also demanding a financial apology from William Hague.

## SNP changes tactic

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, has put his campaign firmly back at the centre of his party's campaign, promising to hold a referendum on independence in the future. He says it is possible after the election. In a change of tactics, Mr Salmond will place his focus on the Scottish National Party. Mr Salmond suggested for the first time in the campaign that the SNP should be asked to vote on independence within the parliament's first year. When the campaign started, independence was placed last on the party's ten-point plan card. A series of disastrous poll results have forced the SNP to re-launch its campaign.

## QUOTE of the day

Mike Russell, the SNP's chief executive, denying that the Scottish nationalist has had any separation in a backroom.

"Independence is at the centre and the heart of our concerns and always has been."

## today's AGENDA

David McLetchie, Scottish Tory leader, visits the Isle of Arran where he will talk about the SNP's economic policies. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, attends a Catholic schooling conference in Clief. Labour's Donald Dewar takes the battletube to Glasgow. Jim Wallace, Lib Dem leader, will talk about tuition fees in Cumbernauld.

**SAVE £10**  
WAS £49.99  
**NOW £39.99**

- No monthly bills
- No contracts
- Just buy the Pager



Free News Bulletins and Lottery Results

Pager special offer now on at: Argos, Comet, John Lewis Department Stores, Maplin, Phones 4 U, Tandy, Tempo, The Link, and other PageOne authorised dealers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FREECALL 0800 505 505 visit our website at: [www.pageone.co.uk](http://www.pageone.co.uk)

**Minicall**  
STAY IN TOUCH STAY IN POCKET

Calls made to pagers are charged to the caller at 55p per min (0000hrs-1800hrs Mon-Fri) and 50p per min (1800hrs-0000hrs Sat-Sun). Payphones, mobile phones, phone cards and/or other networks utilise prevailing rates and may be subject to network availability.



A message from Sir Tom, Chairman of Kwik-Fit

We service millions of cars every year and all Kwik-Fit people aim to provide our customers with the highest standards of service at all times. If you have any suggestions as to how we could improve our service, please speak to your local Kwik-Fit Manager, or write to me at Kwik-Fit, 17 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6DD and you can be sure that we will follow up your comments immediately.

Tom Farmer  
SIR TOM FARMER CBE  
Chairman

**SAFE NOW, PAY NOTHING UNTIL SEPTEMBER**



4 months interest free credit\*

Open an Autocharge Card Account, spend £100 or more and pay nothing for 120 days, then pay in full with no interest.

Or pay later

Open an Autocharge Card Account, spend £100 or more and pay nothing for 120 days. Then you can spread the repayments within the Autocharge terms.

29.8% APR (Variable)

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

# BANK HOLIDAY MOTORING COSTS-U-LESS AT KWIK-FIT

OPEN ALL WEEKEND

NEW TYRES FROM ONLY £15.95 135x13

OVER 1/2 MILLION TYRES IN STOCK - WE BUY MORE SO THEY COST-U-LESS!

BRITISH MADE REMOULDS FROM ONLY £10.95

## YOU CAN'T BEAT KWIK-FIT FOR SUPERVALUE TYRES

To Fit Eg.	Size	Each from only
Ford Orion, Peugeot 205, VW Jetta	145x13	<b>£17.95</b>
Vauxhall Astra, Volvo 340, Toyota Starlet	155x13	<b>£18.95</b>
Sierra, Nissan Cherry, Lada Riva	165x13	<b>£19.95</b>
Fiat Uno, Nissan Micra, Renault Clio	155/70x13	<b>£21.95</b>
Vauxhall Corsa, Ford Fiesta, Citroen ZX	165/70x13	<b>£22.95</b>
Ford Escort, Hyundai Pony, Mitsubishi Colt	175/70x13	<b>£25.95</b>
Escort XR3i, Golf GTI, Fiat Tipo	185/60H14	<b>£29.95</b>
Cavalier SRi, BMW 320i, Audi 80	195/60H14	<b>£32.95</b>

## SAVE ON REAR SILENCER AND TAILPIPE ASSEMBLIES

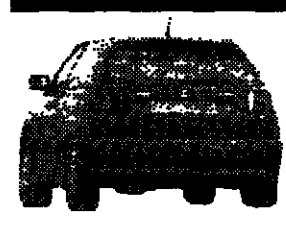
To Fit Eg.	Was From	Now From	SAVE
Nissan Micra 1.0, 1.2 8/87-11/92	£29.95	£24.95	£5
Vauxhall Nova 1.0, 1.2, 1.4 8/90-93	£34.95	£27.95	£7
Rover 214 Si, SLi, GSi, 1396cc 10/89-9/92	£39.95	£29.95	£10
Volvo 343/345 1.4 to-8/91	£39.95	£29.95	£10
Fiat Panda L, CL, S 750, 1000cc 3/86-6/92	£49.95	£39.95	£10

## SAVE ON COMPLETE EXHAUST SYSTEMS

To Fit Eg.	Was From	Now From	SAVE
Vauxhall Nova 1.0, 1.2 8/90-93	£59.95	£49.95	£10
Fiat Uno 45 85-6/92	£79.95	£59.95	£20
Renault 5 Campus 1108cc 8/89-10/92	£89.95	£79.95	£10
Ford Escort 5, 1.3 9/90-8/92	£89.95	£84.95	£5
Mondeo 1.6, 1.8 93-97 Sal/Hatch (Short Assembly)	£89.95	£89.95	£10

UP TO 25% OFF EXHAUSTS

Save £££'s on Car Insurance



Renewing your car insurance? Call Kwik-Fit Insurance Services on 0870 050 7777 Lines open 7 days 8am to 10pm

Kwik-Fit Insurance Services

UP TO 20% OFF

## BRAKES

### BRAKE-SAFE

### LIFETIME GUARANTEE

When Kwik-Fit replace your brake pads or shoes, they are guaranteed against accidental damage, defects and yes, even wear. For as long as you own your car. For full details, contact your local Kwik-Fit Centre.

## FRONT BRAKE PADS

Make/Model	WERE FROM	NOW FROM
Fiesta Mk2	£29.95	<b>£17.95</b>
Escort Mk2.4	£29.95	<b>£19.95</b>
Astra	£29.95	<b>£19.95</b>
Cavalier Mk2	£29.95	<b>£19.95</b>
VW Polo	£29.95	<b>£24.99</b>
Ford Mondeo	£29.95	<b>£34.99</b>

## REAR BRAKE SHOES

Make/Model	WERE FROM	NOW FROM
Fiesta Mk2	£29.95	<b>£23.95</b>
Escort Mk2.4	£29.95	<b>£23.95</b>
Astra	£29.95	<b>£29.95</b>
Cavalier Mk2	£29.95	<b>£29.95</b>
VW Polo	£29.95	<b>£34.99</b>
Ford Mondeo	£29.95	<b>£34.99</b>

Brake fittings may vary depending on model and year.



• Tyres • Exhausts • Brakes • Batteries • Child Safety Seats • Engine oil changes • Shock Absorbers •

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1999, then pay in full to Kwik-Fit with no interest or spread repayments on normal Autocharge Account terms, with monthly repayments of £14.44 or 14.44% of the total purchase price. All other purchases are made on normal Autocharge Account terms. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks. All purchases are subject to credit checks.

\*The 4 months interest free credit offer applies only to purchases made on an Autocharge Card Account. Typical example for a Ford Escort: buy 4 quality 155/70R13 tyres for £100. Nothing to pay until September 1



# Tension rises over Israel poll

Vote hangs in balance, writes Christopher Walker from Jerusalem

THE Palestinians yesterday decided to postpone any decision on declaring an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza until after the Israeli election, adding a new dimension to a cliff-hanging poll that moved into top gear this week with the launch of television campaign broadcasts.

The news came against the backdrop of 48 hours of violence in which eight Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lebanon and another was injured in the West Bank.

Even before the latest violence, the future of Israel's 21-year military presence in southern Lebanon and the deadlocked Middle East peace process with the Palestinians — including their continued demand for an eventual state — had emerged as key issues bitterly dividing the main contenders.

Because of the closeness of the race — the last poll in 1996 was decided by 30,000 votes — and the constraints imposed on rallies by security problems, television advertising is expected to play a key role.

The election takes place on

## RIVALS IN THE MAY 17 ELECTION



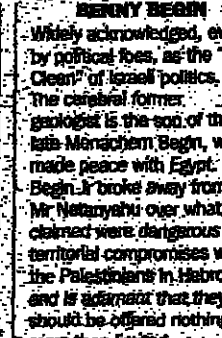
**EHUD BARAK**  
Shown by polls to be the main challenger to Mr Netanyahu, the man he commanded when in charge of Israel's Sayeret Matkal elite commando unit. Renamed his party the One Israel Party, but still has to overcome the problem that many Sephardic Jews regard Labour as elitist. Campaign boosted by top former Clinton spin-doctors but could be thwarted by the new Centre Party.



**BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**  
Narrowly elected as Israel's youngest Prime Minister in 1996, "Bibi" Netanyahu was forced to the polls 18 months earlier than expected after failing to hold his Likud-led coalition together over the deadlocked peace process. Unwashed king of Israel's media-dominated campaigning, he is still a possible winner despite making many enemies while in power and upsetting the White House.



**YITZHAK MORDECHAI**  
Popular former Defence Minister under Mr Netanyahu until sacked on TV for his talks with Centre Party, which he now leads. After opinion polls showed him the most popular of the contenders with voters, favours continuation of peace process, but has yet to take off in the polls, against Mr Barak and Mr Netanyahu. Under pressure to stand down in exchange for top post in a future Barak-led government.



**BENNY BEGIN**  
Widely acknowledged, even by political foes, as the "Mr Clean" of Israeli politics. The central former gashonit is the son of the late Menachem Begin, who made peace with Egypt. Mr Begin broke away from Mr Netanyahu over what he claimed were dangerous territorial compromises with the Palestinians in Lebanon, and is adamant that they should be offered nothing more than limited autonomy.



**AZMI BISHARA**  
The first Arab ever to run for the premiership. A former head of philosophy at West Bank's Bir Zeit University — a focus of Palestinian nationalism — he is a Christian Arab leading a splinter from the Israeli Communist Party. Favours Israel as a secular, democratic (ie, not defined as Jewish) state, with cultural autonomy for its one million Arabs. Backs a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

May 17 with 33 parties competing for 120 seats in the 15th Knesset, compared with the record set in 1988 of 27 parties struggling for the 55,000 votes needed to secure a single seat. More significant are the five candidates running for the directly elected position of prime minister, which Benjamin Netanyahu has held since 1996. If one of those fails to win 50 per cent in the first ballot, there

will be a presidential-style second round between the two front-runners on June 1.

Predictions of the outcome in a country where the old joke of "two Jews, three opinions" is very much alive and well, have been complicated by the emergence of a new Centre Party, led by Yitzhak Mordechai, Mr Netanyahu's popular former Defence Minister, as a strong contender. Unless

Mr Mordechai stands down before May 17, he will open the way to a second round between Mr Netanyahu and Labour's Ehud Barak.

Mr Netanyahu is likely to win a second round because of a strong turnout among Jewish supporters compared with that of Israeli Arabs, unlikely to turn out a second time in sufficient numbers to secure victory for Mr Barak. Neither Ben-

ny Begin, the far-right candidate, nor Azmi Bishara, the first Arab prime ministerial challenger in Israel's 51-year history, are given any chance.

Mr Netanyahu led off the nearly 90 minutes of party political broadcasts on Monday night, many scripted and supervised by highly paid American media experts. Offstage in Mr Netanyahu's corner is Arthur Finkelstein,

the conservative US campaign wizard who is so reclusive about his presence in Israel that he often checks into a Jerusalem hotel under a false name.

Mr Barak — Israel's most decorated soldier — is having his campaign masterminded by a team of liberal Americans including James Carville, the so-called "Ragin' Cajun" from Louisiana, Stanley Greenberg and Bob Shrum, who were all present at the birth of the famous slogan for party workers in President Clinton's first campaign, "It's the economy, stupid".

"The American advisers will market the two leaders to the people of Israel in almost the same way as an advertiser markets a new orthopaedic mattress," said the *Haaretz* columnist Akiva Eldor.

"The difference is that the ratings of the campaign broadcasts really can affect the Israeli citizen's quality of sleep during the next four years."

The outcome is expected to hinge on the whim of floating voters, and the spin-doctors will be focusing on the one million immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989.

In Monday's opening round Mr Netanyahu's Likud had the wit to include Russian subtitles for the new arrivals. By Tuesday, such is the speed of Israel's "electoral response teams", Labour's platform was repeated word for word in Cyrillic also.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Russo-Chinese frontier pact

Beijing: China and Russia have reached a breakthrough in talks to map out their common border, ending a 300-year-old dispute, a Russian diplomat said here. "The task of marking out the border is complete after seven years of work," he said of the 2,656-mile border between the states.

The head of the Russian negotiating team, Genrikh Kiryev, had exchanged documents in Beijing with his Chinese opposite numbers, the diplomat said. "The documents are ready to be signed. It will be done at the next summit between the heads of state or government this year, either in Moscow or in Beijing." (AFP)

### Home rights for 1.6m

Hong Kong: Officials say that more than 1.6 million mainland Chinese could have the right to live in Hong Kong as the result of a court ruling last January (Jill McGivering writes). A government survey suggests that 700,000 people, the children of permanent residents, could apply for residency immediately. Many are adults, and their children, more than 900,000 second-generation migrants, would also win the right of abode.

### Kabila victory claim

Nairobi: The Congolese Army announced that its forces recaptured the eastern town of Bendersa this week after heavy fighting with rebels and Rwandan troops in which 120 Rwandans were killed (Robin Lodge writes). There has been no independent confirmation of the claim, which was made by the armed forces spokesman, Leon Kasonga. If confirmed, it would provide a significant boost to the Government of President Kabila.

### Capitol bacteria scare

Washington: Safety inspectors have found a recurrence of "potentially hazardous" levels of legionnaires' disease bacteria in the power plant that supplies heat and air-conditioning to the Capitol building (Ian Brodie writes). High concentrations were found seven months ago. Inspectors said the system would not send the deadly bacteria through vents to congressional offices, but could pose a hazard to plant workers.

### Supper's ready

Rome: Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, painted on the wall of a convent in Milan in 1498, went on show to the public after restoration work lasting 22 years. Rather than using the classic fresco technique, Leonardo chose a mix of tempera emulsion and oil on a plaster base. The technique, generally reserved for paintings on wood, allowed him to retouch the composition, but trapped damp in the wall. (AFP)

### Death penalty call

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition. Thirty of the commission's members voted in favour and 11 against, including the United States and China. The European Union-sponsored text calls on all states that have the death penalty to reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed. (AFP)

## Grateful Mandela forges closer ties with Russians



Mandela: greeted by a guard of honour

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S renaissance as a world power was further reinforced yesterday by the arrival in Moscow of Nelson Mandela, the South African President.

Mr Mandela, who retires in June and is in Russia to discuss strengthening bilateral political and economic ties, expressed his gratitude to Russia for its support in fighting apartheid.

"We received enormous assistance from the Soviet Union, the assistance we could not get from the West," he said. "Russia should have been the very first country

that I visited and I have come to pay that debt now."

The two countries signed agreements on the development of natural resources, such as gold and diamonds, and a declaration of co-operation in nuclear energy, specifically the development of helium modular nuclear reactors, thought to be the safest.

Russian politicians now railing against Nato's actions in Serbia are painfully aware of their economic dependence on the West. The International Monetary Fund has agreed to resume loans to Russia, beginning with about \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) in an accord to be finalised in Washington this week.

## Birthday bash for Saddam

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq celebrated his 62nd birthday yesterday by throwing a huge party across his impoverished country to demonstrate the resilience of his regime in the face of economic sanctions and a war of attrition by US and British military aircraft (Michael Theodorou writes). State radio crooned *Happy Birthday* in English, while singers and poets led parades of admiration of the man who has led his country into two disastrous wars in 20 years.

## Pol Pot torture chief tells of Briton's death

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

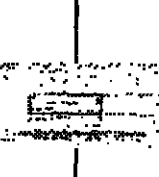
COMRADE Deuch, the commandant of Pol Pot's "S-21", the extermination and torture prison in Phnom Penh during the years of the "killing fields", has been found helping refugee charities in western Cambodia and says that as a born-again Christian he wants to atone for his sins.

Deuch, real name, Kiang Khiek Iev, was the most wanted member of the Khmer Rouge regime after its leader Pol Pot, who died last year. In an interview with a British photo-journalist, Nic Dunlop, he said he remembered John Dewhurst, a Briton captured

by the Khmer Rouge with a New Zealand friend, Kerry Hamill, and a Canadian, Stuart Glass. The three were executed at S-21. "Yes, the Englishman was very polite," he said. "All foreigners were killed and their bodies burnt so no bones were left."

In his confession after torture, Dewhurst wrote that he was a CIA agent, recruited at the age of 12, and that his father was also a CIA agent whose cover was as the headmaster of a Newcastle secondary school. Dewhurst also said he attended a CIA school in Loughborough with a sign on the gate saying "Loughborough Town Council Highways Department".

## Higher Output. Lower Input.



GATEWAY SOLO 2500SE  
WITH FREE CARRY CASE £1099

CP7-450MHz PROFESSIONAL PC WITH INTEL® PENTIUM® III PROCESSOR, WITH FREE ZIP DRIVE £999

Want to get more performance out of your IT budget?

Cost an eye over these sleek solutions. For more power on

the road, the Solo 2500SE

Portable PC. Driven by the

very latest 333MHz Intel®

Mobile Celeron® processor.

It sports extended battery life,

integrated CD-ROM & Diskette Drives and a free

classic carry case. For increased acceleration in the

office: The CP7-450MHz Professional PC. Powered by

the Intel® Pentium® III processor, which gives you the

flexibility to grow with tomorrow's technology. To cope

with today's data there's a free, 100Mb Zip drive.

Both are custom-built to stop your bottom-line redline.

Both have Gateway's comprehensive service and support

network. Call Gateway now and have it your way.

0800 97 3133

www.gateway.com/uk



£1099  
(£1313.65 inc. VAT and delivery)  
Business Lease £5.94 weekly\*

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor, 450MHz
- 512KB L2 Cache
- Intel® 440BX AGP
- 60MB 500MHz SDRAM
- 4.3GB 9.5mm Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 8MB ATI Rage Pro Turbo Video Card
- Free Zip Drive
- 17" E1700, 0.26mm Monitor
- Gateway Essentials for Small Business
- Microsoft® Word 97, MS Publisher, MS Outlook 97
- MS Windows 98

- 12.1" TFT Colour Display
- Intel® Mobile Celeron® Processor 333MHz
- Integrated 256KB L2 Cache
- 32MB SDRAM
- 3.2GB Hard Drive
- Integrated 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive and Integrated 8/20X CD-ROM
- 12 Cell 600mAh Lithium-Ion Battery
- Free classic carry case

Have it your way DIRECT FROM Gateway

Gateway Stores: Croydon The Whitby Centre Kingston The Bental Centre Cowes Garden 10 Bedford Street Manchester The Trafford Centre Leeds 95 The Headrow Kent The Bluewater Centre Sales Phone Lines Open Monday to Friday 9am-10pm, Saturday 9am-6pm

©1999 Gateway 2000 Europe. All rights reserved. Gateway and the Gateway stylized logo are Gateway trademarks. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and Celeron is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions (available on request) and limited warranty. All prices and configurations are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices are quoted in Sterling. Free finance access from gateway is available in the UK only. Technical support calls for gateway are charged at £1 per minute at all times. Offer applies to Windows 95 and 98 systems only. Year 2000 Compliance: Gateway hardware conforms to British Standards Institution DISC PD2000 - 1:1998 and is certified NIST compliant.

\*All business lease figures are shown as a weekly value, exclusive of delivery and VAT. Payments are collected quarterly by direct debit subject to status.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

# DORINDA AT THE OSCARS

Dorinda McCann, our ex-chambermaid turned roving reporter, does the Oscars, where she turned in a star performance and gave an emotional speech afterwards. The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend



Scottish Widows Personal Pension. Built to last a lifetime

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

لقد كان من الاصل



هكذا من الاصل

WORLD IN BRIEF

so-Chinese  
tier pact

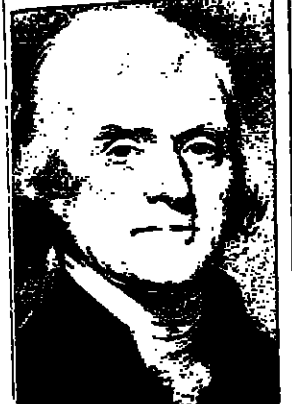
ne rights for 1.6m

ila victory claim

ntel bacteria scare

pper's ready

ath penalty call



Thomas Jefferson: had at least one child with slave

Race row threatens Jefferson reunion

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

THE annual family gathering of Thomas Jefferson's descendants will include blacks as well as whites for the first time next month, but a new dispute is brewing over whether the black claimants should formally be grafted on to the Jefferson family tree. The debate over whether Jefferson had black offspring erupted after a 200-year-old patent suit, which came to a verdict last November when a judge ruled that one of the children belonging to Jefferson's slave, Hemmings, was probably fathered by America's third President. The Monticello Association, a group of 700 officially acknowledged Jefferson descendants, holds a gathering in May at his Monticello estate in Virginia, and this year the organisation has invited more than 20 black people descended from the President's slave. The invitation was made after Lucian Truscott IV, a fifth-generation white Jefferson descendant, threatened to take the entire Hemmings family to the party on May 15. Mr Truscott said that, unless the black group is formally recognised, he will ask all white claimants to take a test to prove their own ancestry. "It's racist on its face. All black people their oral history is not enough, despite A. while automatically being the oral history of the likes like me," he said.

Beijing spy 'stole all US nuclear secrets'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

VIRTUALLY every nuclear weapon in the United States was compromised when a scientist suspected of spying for China transferred huge amounts of data from a secret computer system to an unclassified network, according to a report published yesterday. The transfers, discovered only last month, add a vast new dimension to the investigation of nuclear spying during which, according to the chairman of a congressional committee, the Chinese stole "the crown jewels" of America's nuclear arsenal and continue to do so. China denies the charges. Yesterday's report, in *The New York Times*, contained allegations that were said to have outraged politicians and intelligence officials. President Clinton ordered Bill Richardson, his Energy Secretary, who oversees nuclear weapons laboratories, to "get to the bottom of it". Officials said the transfers were made to a widely accessible computer network by Wen Ho Lee, 59, who was born in Taiwan and has worked since 1978 at the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory in New Mexico. The report said that millions of lines of computer code, giving details of how America's nuclear warheads worked, were downloaded four to five years ago from a computer system that is open only to scientists with top-level security clearance at Los Alamos. There was said to be evidence that the files were accessed by someone improperly using a password after they were placed in the unclassified network. American officials

feared that the files were then passed to Beijing, although an Energy Department official said this remained uncertain. Experts said the data would be useful to any nuclear power trying to copy US designs. The information contained the "legacy" codes used to design nuclear weapons, analyse nuclear test results and evaluate the safety of warheads. In addition, Mr Lee allegedly transferred the "input" data for specific warheads. Ray Kidder, a nuclear weapons physicist at another laboratory, said that, taken together, the legacy code and the input data were the equivalent of a scientific blueprint that could be "reverse-engineered" to give a complete plan of the explosive part of the weapon. Another scientist said that the information was not by itself sufficient to produce an exact copy of an American weapon, but it could be of considerable value to a country such as China, which has signed the nuclear test ban treaty and relies on computer simulations to upgrade its nuclear arsenal. The FBI was already investigating whether Mr Lee passed information to Beijing in the 1980s, enabling China to design a replica of America's most advanced nuclear warhead, the W-88 used in Trident submarines. He was sacked from Los Alamos seven weeks ago, but denies wrongdoing. In a potentially embarrassing twist to the case, his wife, Sylvia, a former secretary at Los Alamos, was identified this week as having been an FBI informant. She helped agents to monitor Chinese scientists visiting the laboratory.



Duke in Baton Rouge, where he entered the race for Congress

Political dinosaur revisits Southern swamp

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN AMITE, LOUISIANA

A PREHISTORIC political creature has re-emerged from Louisiana's swamps in a last effort to win power. David Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, perennial candidate and torch-bearer for America's white supremacists, is running for a House of Representatives seat. Some 50 people — mostly men, all white — have assembled in a humid hut on the edge of the bayou to hear an angry sermon that might have wafted back from the Deep South of four decades ago. "This country was founded by white Christians. Our heritage is at stake. We're being outvoted and outnumbered in our own communities... people have been raped, murdered, assaulted, robbed. Blacks commit ten times more violent crimes than whites. 1,000 per cent more rapes." Mr Duke rants, as his audience nods and grumbles. Outside, fireflies skitter among rows of rusty pickups with "Duke for Congress" bumper stickers decrepit



Duke refers to his Ku Klux Klan years variously as a mistake or a thrill

vehicles carrying decrepit, second-hand thoughts. Mr Duke, 48, is a hangover from the past with no hope of winning, according to opponents. Yet his candidacy has sent a nasty shiver through the Republican Party, already embarrassed at having to fill a seat vacated by Robert Livingston, the House Speaker-designate who resigned during the Lewinsky scandal over sexual "indiscretions". Louisiana's election rules, a broad field of candidates, mean that he cannot be ignored. Seven Republicans, of whom he is one, are competing for the seat along with two Democrats. If, as expected, none wins an outright majority in Saturday's primary vote, then the two frontrunners will go through to a runoff on May 29; if the Republican vote is sufficiently fragmented, there is an outside chance that Mr Duke may slip through. That prospect, however distant, is sufficiently scary to have persuaded the Republican Congressional Committee in Washington to commission a private survey to see if it should step in and endorse another candi-

date. Polls show Mr Duke running behind three other Republicans including a wealthy ophthalmologist from New Orleans with the alarming name, given recent US history, of Monica Monica. The front-runner is David Treen, a party veteran and former Governor of Louisiana. Mr Duke's hopes are pinned firmly on the hardly flattering assumption that those who support him will be too ashamed to admit it to pollsters. In 1991 he drew 55 per cent of the white vote when running for governor, after grabbing nearly 60 per cent of white votes in a Senate poll the year before. A huge turnout of black voters scuppered both attempts and his star has faded since. But Dukedom remains a dark and overgrown corner of Louisiana, fed on a rich compost of paranoia and prejudice. In an autobiography, *My Awakening*, published earlier this year, Mr Duke called for an Aryan revolution and offered the familiar mixture of Holocaust denial and plans for re-



Supporters are assumed to be too ashamed to confess to pollsters

newed racial segregation. But it is his simpler philosophy, in which every complaint is hung on the error of racial mixture, that has his Amite listeners punching the fetid air. The Colorado massacre: "Diversity is what caused this shooting." Kosovo: "What about the invasion of Mexico? Bring the troops home to protect our American borders." (Applause) The media: "They try to make you feel guilty for your white European heritage." The future: "Whites will be a minority..." (Yells). If the podium Mr Duke cuts a different, more plausible figure. His talk of tax cuts, the rights of gun ownership and the decline of Christian morality could come from any mainstream conservative, a fact that brings mainstream conservatives out in a cold sweat. "Duke is trying to hijack the legitimate conservative agenda," the right-wing *Washington Times* said this month. The former Klan chief, the object of a deportation order from Britain in 1978 when he came to address racist rallies and organise resistance to non-white immigration, is equally careful to finesse his past, sometimes describing his sheet-wearing days as a "mistake", but more often as a "thrill" of which he is not ashamed. After 25 years of active politics, nine attempts for office and only one success a decade ago when he briefly held a seat in the state legislature, Mr Duke says that this election will be his last. "We can win," he tells the audience. It fits this conspiratorial fantasy world to imagine that outside the hut exists a vast but silent body of Duke supporters who share the hate but will hide their views until polling day. "We always fly below the radar," says Ray Anderson, Duke's campaign manager. Alongside the highway running back to New Orleans, rotting trunks of broken trees loom out of a primeval mud. Extinction may be on hand, but here dinosaurs still roam.

Scottish Widows Personal Pension. Built to last a lifetime.

For a personal quotation please complete the following details

I am Employed ☐ Self-Employed ☐ Unemployed ☐

I am ☐ currently in an employer's pension scheme

I plan to retire at (range of 50-75) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Initial contribution (Gross) £50p ☐ £100p ☐ £150p ☐

Other \_\_\_\_\_ (min to £50 pmo)

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you about our other products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐

Please return to Scottish Widows, Direct Sales, PO Box 17034, FREEPOST SCOT344, Edinburgh, EH3 9BA. Reference no. 15388A.1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

buttons can be increased, reduced, or suspended at any time subject to our minimum contribution limits and the maximum limits specified by the Inland Revenue. The first two changes in any plan year are free. A charge is made for third and subsequent changes. If contributions are suspended for more than two years we cannot guarantee the terms. The value of units can go down as well as up. Future bonus is not guaranteed. Further details on our Personal Pension are included in the product literature, available from us on request. For your protection your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products issued by Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

**YOUR SAVINGS WILL ROCKET ONCE YOU'VE DISCOVERED ONE.TEL LOW RATE CALLS!**

**24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK**

One.Tel offers low cost international calls from your home or business phone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no pre-payment required and you don't even have to change telephone companies. Call us now to register on 0800 092 8988 between 7am-11pm, Mon. to Fri. or 8.30am-5.30pm Sat. and 9am-5pm Sun. Once you are registered simply dial 1878 from your touch tone phone in front of the national or international number you wish to call. It couldn't be easier.

INTERNATIONAL RATES			
Destination	FLAT RATE (per min.)	Destination	FLAT RATE (per min.)
Belgium	10p	Italy	14p
Denmark	9p	Jamaica	41p
Greece	23p	Norway	10p
Israel	15p	Portugal	22p

**PHONE 0800 092 8988**  
or visit our website on [www.onetel.co.uk](http://www.onetel.co.uk)

**HOW TO DIAL 1878 'N' SAVE**

00 COUNTRY CODE AREA CODE LOCAL NUMBER

**NO PRE-PAYMENT NO SWITCHING PHONE COMPANIES MUST DIAL 1878 FIRST**

Not applicable to calls made from mobile phones or payphones. All rates are correct at time of publication and can change at any time. All prices incl. vat.

**One.Tel**  
100% Telephone Co.



## BALKANS WAR: CIVILIAN DEATHS

## Nato regrets bombing error

Blair says atrocities by Milosevic far outweigh few Serb casualties, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

NATO offered its regrets yesterday after a laser-guided bomb lost its target "lock" and fell to the ground, killing up to 20 civilians and demolishing 50 homes 300 metres from the intended hit, a Yugoslav army barracks.

However, as the latest example of "collateral damage" gave Belgrade the opportunity to accuse Nato of a bombing outrage, Tony Blair went on the offensive, denouncing President Milosevic for his deliberate targeting of civilians. The Ministry of Defence joined in the damage-limitation exercise by distributing a map setting out the atrocities committed by the Serbs against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

The Prime Minister expressed regret over the deaths in the southern Serbian town of Surdulica, but he told the House of Commons that Nato was taking "every single precaution we possibly can" to avoid civilian deaths. It would be "the ultimate moral outrage" if Britain and the other members of Nato stood aside while Serb forces committed "appalling atrocities" and raped women "so badly they will never be able to have children".

Mr Blair told MPs: "We simply cannot know yet how many people Milosevic has butchered inside Kosovo, but I warn the House that it is going to be a very considerable number."

The bomb that went astray should have hit the military barracks, which the Serbs claimed had been empty of troops for weeks, with laser-guided precision. Other Nato bombs on the same raid hit the target.

Defence sources said that the pilot of the Nato bomber, believed to have been an American F15E, had only seconds to decide whether to drop the bomb.

Although he needed to have a clear sight of the barracks be-

fore releasing the bomb down the laser beam reflected off the target, they said it was possible that dense smoke from the other weapons that had been dropped had obscured the target at the last moment, cutting off the laser link.

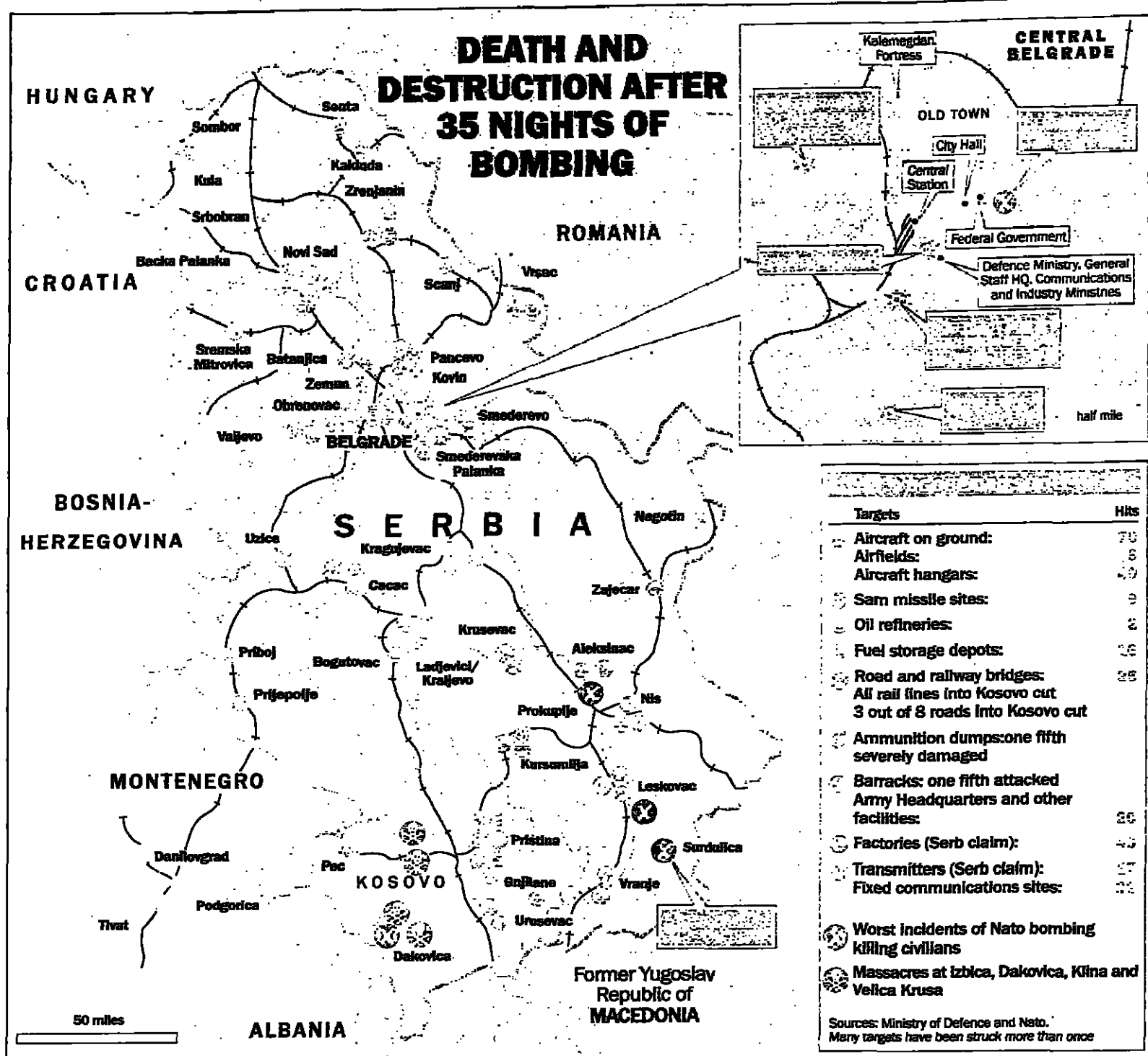
The only other explanation, the sources said, was that the guidance seeker head on the bomb was faulty.

The bomb, believed to have been a 2,000lb deep-penetration weapon, hit a residential area. Witnesses said the Nato raid was between 12.10pm and 12.30pm on Tuesday.

Rescue workers said it was difficult to count the dead because most had been "blown to bits". At the town's hospital, medical staff were trying to reconstruct the bodies. Miroslav Stojiljkovic, Mayor of the town of 15,000 people, estimated that 600 houses had suffered some damage. Bulldozers were removing huge mounds of concrete rubble to help the search for survivors. Many of the victims in the town, which is about 200 miles south of Belgrade, were in their cellars waiting for the Nato raids to finish. Other laser-guided bombs have also gone astray during the first five weeks of Operation Allied Force, although comparatively few of the thousands of bombs dropped have missed their target completely. In one of the earliest raids, a bomb dropped by an RAF Harrier GR7 lost its way but fell on open ground.

The Prime Minister said that, despite the civilian deaths, he remained as determined as ever to continue the bombing campaign.

The 20 deaths bring to nearly 100 the number of civilians officially acknowledged by Nato to have been killed. Between 65 and 75 Albanian refugees were killed when a convoy near Dakovica was hit, ten civilians died on a train cross-



ing a bridge near Leskovac, and 12 died after another bomb went astray at Aleksinac.

The civilian death toll claimed by the Serbs, and supported by the Russians, is higher, but there is no way of validating their figures. They claim that more than 500 civilians have been killed since the bombing began, including ten in a residential area of Pristina, the Kosovo capital. The Serbs also claimed that 55 civilians were killed on the railway bridge near Leskovac, after initially reporting only ten.

There are increasing reports of injuries caused by the dropping of cluster bombs. Both the US Air Force and the RAF have been striking "soft targets", such as concentrations of troops and vehicles, with

cluster munitions. There are reports of unexploded cluster bombs lying around in Kosovo. In a report from Pristina, in the *Los Angeles Times* yesterday, Rade Grbic, a surgeon at the town's main hospital, said that children had been playing with cluster bombs and had suffered appalling injuries. He was quoted as saying: "I

have been an orthopaedist for 15 years, working in a crisis region where we often have injuries, but neither I nor my colleagues have ever seen such horrific wounds as those caused by cluster bombs. The limbs are so crushed that the only option is amputation."

The report said that 300 to 400 people, about half of the civilian, had been treated in Pristina's hospital for cluster bomb injuries since the Nato air campaign began on March 24. However, the Yugoslav Air Force has also been dropping Russian-made cluster bombs from low-flying aircraft. It is likely that some unexploded munitions are Yugoslav.

Letters, page 23  
Books, page 40

## Sunny skies herald heavier attacks

BY MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Milosevic was given a clear warning yesterday that improving weather would enable Nato to launch an overwhelming number of airstrikes.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said that summer weather would make a huge difference to Nato's air campaign. "And summer is a coming," he said.

The weather forecasters had been wrong, he said. Earlier this week they predicted clear skies over Yugoslavia, yet it had been Bulgaria that enjoyed good weather. He said, however, that Yugoslavia "is a country in the South of Europe which has good summers".

The importance of the weather became apparent yesterday when clearer skies brought an intensification of raids. Southern districts of Belgrade were hit in several hours of bombing overnight. The state-run Tanjug news agency described it as a "massive onslaught".

Nato bombers also hit military targets in Montenegro, including an army communications relay station on Mount Crni Vrh and a Yugoslav airbase near Podgorica, the capital.

As the bombers flew over the Montenegrin port of Bar, which is to be the subject of a Nato oil embargo blockade, Yugoslav navy warships opened fire.

Other targets included two bridges, two fuel dumps, an army training centre, an army barracks in Belgrade and an army command post in Kosovo.

## Fixed income until 1 May 2000

NEW INCREASED RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 21 APRIL 1999

UP TO 6.50% AER

EXISTING BOND HOLDERS WILL BENEFIT FROM NEW INCREASED RATES EFFECTIVE 21 APRIL 1999

AMOUNT YOU INVEST	ANNUAL INTEREST			MONTHLY INTEREST		
	% GROSS	% NET	% AER	% GROSS	% NET	% AER
£5,000+	6.30	5.04	6.30	5.80	4.64	5.86
£50,000+	6.40	5.12	6.40	5.90	4.72	6.06
£100,000+	6.50	5.20	6.50	6.00	4.80	6.17

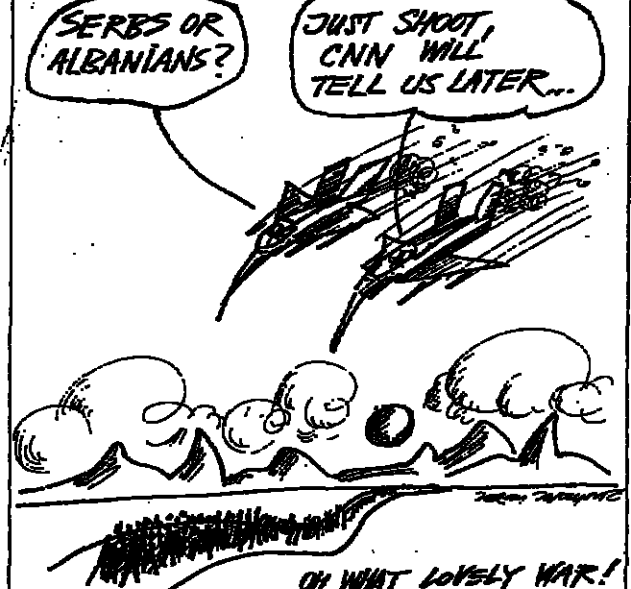
FIXED UNTIL 1 MAY 2000

NORTHERN ROCK

Northern Rock plc. Registered Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL.

www.northernrock.co.uk Assets exceed £18 billion.

Please refer to our Fixed Rate Bond leaflet for full details. Rates are correct as at 21.4.99 and will remain fixed until 1.5.2000. Rates may vary thereafter. No withdrawal is permitted from the account until after 22 years of age. Interest will be paid after deduction of income tax at the lower rate (currently 30%) (or subject to the required certification, gross). Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Internal Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic rate bands, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay. For individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40%, will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. 2. The Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) is a notional rate which illustrates the contractual interest rate (including any bonus interest payable as it is paid and compounded) on an annual basis. Northern Rock plc is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987. The Scheme guarantees 90% of your total deposits with Northern Rock plc up to a maximum of £18,000 or Euro 20,000 if preferred. Details of the Scheme are available on request.



The view from Belgrade, by the cartoonist Jovanovic

## Congress disputes Clinton's right to wage war on Serbs

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

ARGUMENTS broke out on Capitol Hill yesterday over the costs of military action and President Clinton's authority to wage war and deploy ground troops, as the House of Representatives prepared to cast its first votes on the crisis since the air campaign began.

Two proposals — one demanding that the US declare war on Yugoslavia, the other that it pull out — were expected to fail, but a third, that would require Mr Clinton to obtain congressional approval before the deployment of ground forces, was gaining momentum with the backing of Republican leaders.

"This will hamstring our troops in the field," Congressman Martin Frost said as fellow Democrats issued a warning that such a move could even prevent the deployment of Apache helicopters against Serb units in Kosovo.

The White House found itself in the unexpected position of arguing that Congress was preparing to spend too much after Republicans said they were ready to double an emergency cost package but backed on a number of vote-winning military expenses not directly related to the Kosovo conflict. Mr Clinton told legislators

that he opposed Republican plans to double the \$5.9 billion (£3.7 billion) in emergency funding already requested to cover the operation's costs until September 30, but said he would accept a larger package including a military pay rise.

Congress should "resist the temptation" to add other military costs to the bill since this could cause a critical delay, Mr Clinton said.

Democrats accused Republicans of trying to use the military funding issue for domestic political advantage. "We're for winning this war, not ending it," a White House spokesman said.

The two resolutions calling for a full declaration of war or a troop pull-out were tabled by Tom Campbell, a Republican, citing the long-disputed US War Powers law which requires the President to obtain congressional approval to keep troops in combat for more than two months.

"We are at war and Congress has not declared war and that is unconstitutional," Mr Campbell said.

Under US law only Congress can declare war, but only the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, can order in troops.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

## Woman dies in protest explosion

Athens: The Revolutionary Nuclei group said it had carried out a bomb attack, in which a woman was killed, because of "the Nato murder of civilians" in Yugoslavia (John Carr writes). The explosion at the Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday night, hours before Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, was to open an economic conference there, comes amid hostility to Britain over its role in the action against Belgrade. Salonika, railworkers blocked a train taking British military vehicles to Macedonia.

## Refugees flee to Italy

Gioia del Colle: More than 4,000 illegal immigrants fleeing the Kosovo conflict have landed on southern Italian shores in the past five days and the authorities reception centres for the new exodus of refugees to the Apulian region are close to collapse (John Phillips writes). On Tuesday alone, 1,400 people, most of them women and children, were dropped on the Salentine coast from speedboats and other small craft piloted by Albanian and Italian smugglers.

## Kuwaitis raise £8.3m

Kuwait City: A live Kuwaiti television has raised £8.3 million for Kosovo refugees, Yusef al-Samir, the Information Minister, said. Several celebrities appeared on the television, dubbed "the day of solidarity with the people of Kosovo", to talk about the plight of Muslim Albanians in Kosovo. Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah has donated \$1 million (£637,000) on behalf of the al-Sabah family, and four planes loaded with urgent relief supplies were dispatched to Albania. (AFP)

## Turkish troops parade



Ankara: A Turkish soldier mans a gun on a tank during a parade at Mamak Garrison on the outskirts of the capital yesterday by a unit that has been readied to take part in a possible Nato peacekeeping mission Kosovo. Some 1,000 soldiers supported by armoured personnel carriers and tanks are on standby, the military Turkey has 11 F16s participating in the campaign against Yugoslavia. (AP)

## Fuel smugglers thrive

Sofia: Bulgarian motorists are enjoying a lucrative trade in smuggling petrol to Serbia as Nato considers an oil embargo on Yugoslavia. Customs officials at the Bregovo border in car tanks, concealed cans and soft-drink bottles. Serbs pay \$1 (62p) per litre for the fuel, which costs about 44 cents (27p) in Bulgaria. (AP)

think think...

STUDIO ENTHUSIAST SYSTEM

NEW! 100% IN PROCESSOR 45

Hard Disk Drive ■ 17" Colour Monitor

comes with the

630i Zoom Digital

Software. So you

can see them on the

screen as so easy.

STUDIO ENTHUSIAST SYSTEM

BRAND OFFERING THIS SATURDAY IN 2000

مركز من الأصل



## BALKANS WAR: VICTIMS OF MILOSEVIC

All trademarks, registered trademarks, trade names and service marks are subject to change without notice. Please check website, before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. EBCO, Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. Tiny Computers Limited is part of the ST group. [www.st.com](http://www.st.com) for availability. \*Microsoft CD-Rs.





## GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

## Stop talking, Margaret

Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington: once, when she was explaining to President Reagan the stance that America should take on an issue, Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, slipped her a note saying: "Margaret, you're talking too much"

In the fourth extract from his memoirs, George Walden describes how Parliament, the Tories and the country all realised that it was time for Margaret Thatcher to step down

My first impression of Margaret Thatcher was positive: there was absolutely no side to this woman. She treated officials like fully fledged human beings who (at that stage of her premiership) were allowed their say. Foreign Office flannel, you learnt quickly, was unwelcome. As you talked the electric blue eyes bored into you as if probing for insincerities or fuzzy thinking. I liked the way she preferred plain speaking, even when she simplified things outrageously, and admired her "can-do" style. If you made your point with conviction and could prove you were right, she would take the argument while avoiding any appearance of doing so. Watching her in action it struck me that she was composed of two vital elements: strong passions and a sharp intelligence. The trick was to bring the two together.

Sometimes she would say to me, in tones of reproach: "George, you look tired!" I longed to reply: "That's because I am." Later I noticed how often she said the same to others. Sometimes her commiseration extended even to her ministers. In the middle of the talks on the future of Rhodesia, Lord Carrington (then Foreign Secretary) went to secure her agreement to a crucial point. It was a Saturday afternoon, and we had flown in that morning from the ends of the earth.

She listened while Carrington made his case, and she steered herself for the usual battle. When he had finished all she said was: "You both look exhausted. Have you had lunch?" We hadn't. "Come upstairs and have a bite. The servants have gone but I'll make you scrambled eggs." Keener to secure her agreement than to savour her eggs, Carrington declined. The solicitude then evaporated while the point was thrashed out mercilessly, and finally agreed. Carrington took me off to a late lunch at White's, by way of celebration.

As a minister I was to see that there was another psychology at work in all this talk of other people's tiredness. What she was saying was that you were a man, she was a woman, you were a junior, she was Prime Minister, and yet, unlike you, she was never tired. Though she rarely looked it, with her blue clothes and pink glowing skin, like a Barbara Cartland confection, this of course was untrue. She was often worn out. You could tell when she needed sleep be-

cause, like humbler mortals in a similar state, she talked too much. One person who was allowed to point out this self-evident truth was Denis Thatcher. A model political consort, though not lacking views of his own (they were uncannily close to John Wells's "Dear Bill" letters), he never intervened in policy discussions, reserving his authority for strategic moments. In the middle of an endless discussion over whisky sodas at 1 or 2am in Washington, Tokyo or Bonn, when Carrington and I were aching for sleep, Denis would suddenly announce: "Bed, Margaret!" like a publican calling time. And to bed she would go.

In international meetings the compulsive talking could be an embarrassment. During a meeting with President Reagan, who was neither as articulate nor as well briefed as herself, Thatcher was explaining at length the line America should be taking, while Reagan sat listening, his jar of gum-gums on the table, smiling his screen smile. All at once Thatcher shut up. Surprised at the sudden silence, I raised an eyebrow at Carrington, who passed me a note he had slipped in front of her. It read: "Margaret, you're talking too much."

It is hard to imagine a minister but him saying it, or Thatcher reacting as she did. When Carrington and Willie Whitelaw left the Cabinet and she became more confident, not to say autocratic, no one would have dared.

My experience as a diplomat, then an MP, led me to form my own conclusions about our foreign policy under Thatcher. The common view was that she despised the Foreign Office and persistently disregarded its advice was largely myth — one later to be encouraged and exploited by Thatcher herself. While ensuring that she was portrayed as being at permanent loggerheads with her diplomats, in reality she went quietly along with almost every recommendation on every big decision on foreign policy that arose.

It was Thatcher who said you never negotiated with terrorists, and it was she who spoke warmly of the services to peace and reconciliation of Robert Mugabe, the Marxist and ex-terrorist leader, after he had become the first Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. In Hong Kong it was Thatcher who opened up the question of the post-1997 future of the colony with the Chinese Government, even though she had brandished the 1841 treaties during a visit to Tokyo to prove that Victoria Island belonged to us in perpetuity. And it was she who signed the agreement with China giving Hong Kong back to them three years later.

In the Middle East it was she who agreed to the European Community's policy of opening a dialogue with the PLO. More talking to terrorists. It was she who agreed to a lease-back arrangement over the Falklands with Argentina, whose rejection by Parliament was to lead to war. Sedulously disseminated rumours that she had been against the proposal all along made no difference. The fact is she endorsed it, when she could have stopped it in its tracks by saying "No, no, no!"

Then there was Thatcher's stance on communism. In the Cold War she was not a good American policy, but a restraint. The Iron Lady spent much time prevailing on President Reagan to tone down his Star Wars plans, while giving the impression that she stood shoulder to shoulder with him on every East-West issue. And when Reagan struck out on his own, stumbling towards a ban on all nuclear weapons in his meeting with Gorbachev at Reykjavik, which in the unlikely event of an agreement would have left East and West disarmed and the world free for Saddam Hussein and his ilk, she was horrified.

As for Europe, it was she who signed the Single European Act and took Britain into the ERM on the advice of her Chancellor and Foreign Secretary, forbearing once again to say "No, no, no!" If the Cabinet was weighted against her, and if Britain's sovereignty and in-



Margaret Thatcher with Denis and her daughter Carol

dependence were at stake, as she later claimed, why did she not resign? There can be little doubt that, had she been in office, she would have signed the Maastricht agreement, too, albeit under protest, and with the same opt-outs Major was to achieve. The one occasion on which she did not follow the diplomatic advice of the day — to accept the unification of Germany with as good a grace as we could as a *fait accompli* — she was seen as dangerously out of touch with reality, a perception that had as much to do with her fall from power as the poll tax.

Idolaters of Thatcher as the only reliable guardian of Britain's interests face a conundrum. How was she brought, time and again, to do her diplomats' bidding? Either she was not perspicacious enough to see when she was being led by the nose by her officials (assuming she was) and was insufficiently strong-willed to resist, or she fell in with the "Foreign Office line" (say her Foreign Secretary's advice) because, as she was fond of saying in other contexts, there was no alternative.

As the 1987 election neared, my equivocal feelings about my future in politics grew. I did not see myself as an outstanding minister, not least because of a fatal inclination to see too many sides of a question. My real interests were cultural, and largely outside the reach of politicians. Uncertain which way to jump, I left things to the last moment. Just before the end of the campaign

I gave my secretary a letter to Thatcher saying I was resigning my ministerial job "for family and personal reasons", with instructions to get it to No 10 on the evening of the close of the polls, so as not to seem to

take my re-election for granted. Thatcher (I was told) did not understand the reasons for my resignation: had I tried to explain them to her, she would have understood even less.

A No 10 lunch confirmed my impression that things were on the slide. There were six of us, including the Foreign Secretary, Geoffrey Howe, and the historian Hugh Thomas. Her strained relations with Howe were common knowledge, but on this occasion her contemptuous attitude towards him astonished me. I do not know what shocked me most: the way she treated him or his docile reaction. We were talking of Europe and different economic models. The slightest deviation from the Thatcher line and Geoffrey was slapped down. He lowered his head, got on with his lunch, then came doggedly back, to be slapped down again. These were not abusive arguments, but personal insults. When he hazarded a view about the workings of industry he was told that if he

knew so much about it, why didn't he go to work there?

To speak to your Foreign Secretary in the way she did in private would have been had enough. To do so in front of myself and an outsider was extraordinary. She had reached the stage when no one dared tell her that she couldn't treat people like that. I wondered that Howe did not excuse himself and leave the room. In the event, his revenge was more dramatic. Watching him knife her in the back in his resignation speech in the Commons not long afterwards was like seeing a battered wife finally turn on a violent husband.

Somehow the fact that she had "lost it" communicated itself to the party at large. The way she went — Heseltine's challenge and the subsequent vote — was of limited importance. Her judgment was becoming erratic, and sooner rather than later she would have had to go. That she was toppled by a parliamentary cabal against the general senti-

ment of the party is a fantasy of the Right. MPs voted against her not just because she was endangering their chances of re-election, they threw her out because the constituency parties were losing faith in her, too. When I consulted my constituency party officers on how to vote in the leadership election in a public show of hands a majority came out in her favour. Later I talked to those who had supported her: in private three quarters said it was time for her to go. My guess is that in Parliament, the party and the country the view was the same.

● Extracted from *Lucky George* by George Walden, published by Penguin on May 6, £17.99; available to readers for £15, including p&p, from The Times Bookshop, 0990 134459

## TOMORROW

"If the Tories' laughter in the chamber annoyed John Prescott, he should have heard them in the tea room"

## Pay Nothing Until May 2000

12 months Interest Free Credit

450-3D DVD

ULTIMATE FAMILY PC PACKAGE

Order Now Offer Ends 27th May

Our promise to you

It's Time

For people who take the time to understand your needs

For clear explanations in plain English not jargon

To cut out the middlemen and cut the cost of computers

To visit us, we probably have a time slot with easy parking, within 15 minutes drive of your home



Special Price

£1098

£1330.10

Offer Ends 27th May

Digital Camera Option

Supernova Digital Camera (6MP, 3200k, complete with AFD adapter, Special price £109.99 + VAT = £129.99 when bought with PC)

we're on your side

Over 120 stores nationwide Open late everyday

FreePhone 0800 316 2317

For details of your nearest store

0800 771 107

Open Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm

See & Buy Holidays 28th May

Product Code 498

No Deposit No Interest No Payments

0% APR 26.9% APR

Direct order line FreePhone

0800 771 107

Open Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm

## Time for the Iron Lady to go

Now she was out of office Denis seemed in higher spirits than ever, perpetually like a man who had just put down his first drink of the day. But his wife was a sad sight. From a distance she looked fine but close up, at cocktails or dinner, her mouth was pinched in a sort of purposeless determination, and her eyes had a faraway look, like an actress endlessly on the point of delivering her curtain speech.

Watching her made me think how easy it is for former Prime Ministers of the male sex to age gracefully, all of a piece, looking more and more distinguished with their balding pates, worldly-wise features and statesmanlike embonpoint. Thatcher had not taken her loss of power well and was reaching the age where her over-immaculate hair set off the ravages of her face. The result was an eerie dissonance between age and vitality. She was also drinking too much. In the old days she would put down a whisky soda or two late in the evening, after her unimpeachable day; now she seemed to have had a little too much before dinner. There



Goodbye to all that: Thatcher's last day at No 10 in 1991

was no arguing with her any more: in fact it was impossible to talk to her. The moment you said anything she would grip your arm and, with a steadfast look, deliver herself of some pronouncement that sounded as if it had been borrowed from the archives. She had reached the point where she didn't know she was doing it. One evening, at a buffet dinner with an East European Prime Minister when she was on a drink-fuelled high,

orating away at our little circle, a Permanent Under-Secretary in our group suddenly got up and left. I too was aching to get away and used the excuse of going to the next room to replenish my wine. There I found the man drinking alone, muttering to himself savagely: "I can't stand it any more. I just can't stand it."

Like everyone who had seen her in her best days, when she was dragging a recalcitrant country behind her as a mother does a mooping child, I felt a little sentimental about her. The most vigorous and intelligent Prime Minister we had had in decades had reached a premature senescence. The last time I saw her was after I had announced that I was giving up my seat. She greeted me by gripping my hand, fixing me with her ancient mariner's eye, and saying with more regret than malice: "George, you've lost your soul." It was an uncomfortable moment. She had, after all, given me a chance in office. Somehow the chilled blue eyes made you feel like a lover who had unjustly abandoned her, and that she was right to chide you.



# Menzies, Mandy and marriage

Labour's Scottish success could benefit Ashdown's heir

It may come to be known as the Mandelson Effect, a formula whereby the addition of the words Peter Mandelson to any political speculation causes an immediate chemical reaction, a fizzing noise, lots of smoke and a powerful smell of rotten eggs.

A good example last week was the suggestion that Mr Mandelson had been brought in to advise Gordon Brown on the running of the Labour campaign in Scotland. Phew, what a stink! It was leapt on by rival parties as evidence that Downing Street was manipulating events north of the border. Charlie Whelan, another arch spin-doctor, reckoned that Mr Mandelson had planted the story himself to show that he was back in favour, although the evidence for this was so thin that it seems to have been oxidised in the process.

Now a few more particles of Mandelson have been scattered on to an already combustible amalgam of rumour and innuendo, which could blow up in the faces of the Liberal Democrats. According to Donald Macintyre's new biography of Mr Mandelson, a secret meeting took place in the Hampstead home of Lord Irvine of Lairg, while Labour was in opposition, to hammer out a long-term pact with the Lib Dems. It was attended by Tony Blair, Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Lord Irvine and, possibly, Gordon Brown, for Labour, and Paddy Ashdown, Robert MacLennan, Archie Kirkwood and Lord Holme of Cheltenham for the Lib Dems. An accord designed to secure the centre ground of British politics was drawn up. It included a deal to consider voting reform at Westminster, for the parties to lay off each other in the election campaign, and to form a coalition at Holyrood if Labour failed to secure an overall majority.

As soon as the story flared up, everyone turned and ran. Mr Dewar denied categorically that there had been any such deal. "I conducted no discussions with the Liberal Democrats nor have I any arrangements which predated this campaign," he said, though he did not deny that meetings had taken place. Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said he knew nothing about it. And Alex Salmond, for the Scottish National Party, dashed off a furious letter to Messrs Blair and Ashdown demanding to know whether the meeting had taken place and, if so, what had been agreed.

It now emerges that there was such a meeting, indeed there may have been more than one. But, according to the Lib Dems, it was about something else. The party's campaign director in Scotland, Michael Moore, MP, said the meetings were held only to discuss proportional representation, that they resulted in the so-called Cook-MacLennan agreement on voting reform, and this was a matter of public record. It had nothing to do with the Scottish party, which was independent; its policy was decided in Scotland not London. That was that.

I doubt if the explanation is

quite so innocent; the Mandelson Effect does not really work like that, and how Mr Moore can be so certain is not clear. The evidence would appear to run the other way. The Scottish campaign has indeed seen an absence of any real attacks by Labour against the Lib Dems, and, as the SNP challenge has faded, the idea of a coalition has become firmly embedded. That may not sound dramatic, but to have the strategy decided in London, and so far in advance, could affect not just the Lib Dems' status in a Scottish government, but the party's future direction, and the outcome of its leadership contest.

The conventional wisdom thus far has been that Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Inverness West, is well ahead in the undeclared campaign to succeed Mr Ashdown. Mr Kennedy, who is at best lukewarm about closer co-operation with Labour, is said to have grassroots support and to command the backing of party activists. But in London, the odds have been altering steadily in favour of Menzies Campbell, MP for North East Fife, and a supporter of the alliance.

The key influence here is no longer Mr Ashdown, but Tony Blair. Whatever the status of those meetings in Derry Irvine's house, it is no secret that the Prime Minister wants to cement a permanent relationship with the Lib Dems. He sees it as a key component of his aim to capture the centre ground of British politics and hold it against Tory incursion for the next generation. Co-opting the Lib Dems on to a key Cabinet committee was one part of this. The chemistry between him and Mr Ashdown, who shared the vision, was another.

Whether Mr Blair will eventually agree to pay the ultimate price of proportional representation to secure the Lib Dems' long-term support remains to be seen, but he is bound to favour a Lib-Lab pact in a Scottish parliament. It is a sort of dry-run for what might some day be a reality at Westminster.

The fall in the SNP's fortunes has fatally undermined those on the Lib Dem Left, who at one time favoured a deal with the nationalists, and is likely to aid those like Mr Campbell who advocate a continuing alliance with Labour. The Lib Dems' salvation, say the strategists, does not lie in taking it to the Left, but in shoring up the centre ground. The understanding with Labour may have to be more hard-nosed, but it will continue. Of course, all talk of a pact will be denied, particularly by the Scottish protagonists from both parties. But the deal is there, and it will be carried forward.

The only problem is the Mandelson Effect. It is so volatile that it can blow up just when you least expect it. It only takes someone to light the tins canister, give the test tube a couple of shakes, and the whole compound starts hissing and bubbling again.

comment@the-times.co.uk



## Dr Toughlove

or How I stopped worrying and learnt to love the Third Way

When I lived in the United States in the 1980s, in the heyday of Thatcherism and Reaganomics, I knew a firebrand of a left-wing politician from Texas (yes, you can find any human oxymoron somewhere in America if you look hard enough). He had a characteristically colourful phrase for the futile, wishy-washy politics being advocated by centrist Southern Democrats such as Bill Clinton: "Bolks in Texas know that there's nothing in the middle of the road except a white line and a dead armadillo."

I thought about this remark in Washington last Sunday, as I sat in the audience at one of President Clinton's famous "seminars" on the politics of the future, this one called "The Third Way: progressive governance for the 21st century". Tony Blair was the principal supporting actor with Gerhard Schröder of Germany, Massimo D'Alema of Italy and Wim Kok of The Netherlands as guest stars. It was easy to sympathise with the cynicism expressed by my Texan friend, as the President lobbed ludicrously soft-ball "questions" about "opportunity, responsibility and community" at the other four leaders, who smugly responded with long strings of clichés about technology, the social contract, globalisation and "the new Left's voyage of rediscovery".

But whereas cynicism is a perfectly healthy reaction to ideological fashions, and intellectual superiority helps to maintain the dignity of media commentators while simultaneously flattering their readers, the question that now seems worth asking is whether cynicism is an adequate response to a movement that has transformed the political world. Whatever may be said about the Third Way's intellectual content, leftist leaders now head six out of the seven main advanced capitalist countries and 13 of the 15 states of the European Union. Not even at the peak of the Conservative ascendancy in the late 1980s could the Right claim either the ideological unity or the global sway represented by the five leaders on the platform in Washington on Sunday.

As if to emphasise and confirm this global victory, the slogans of the Third Way are now being adopted by right-wing oppositions around the world. In Britain, the Tories may be tying themselves in knots as they try to disentangle themselves from the unpopular individualism, social Darwinism and market fun-

damentalism of the Thatcher years, but the Republicans in the United States seem to be making a much smoother transition to Clinton-style rhetoric. Supporters of George W. Bush, the Republican front-runner for the presidency, now openly tout him as a "Third Way politician". His hard-right detractors deride his "compassionate Conservatism" as exactly the kind of self-contradictory slogan that typifies the ideological vacuum of the Third Way.

All right, I hear you say in exasperation, tell us what all this rhetoric really means. Until last week, I would at this point have changed the subject or conveniently run out of space. But at the Washington seminar I had a revelation. I think I began to understand what the Third Way was about. I was struck by the contrast between the confident body language of these relaxed and good-humoured politicians and the extraordinary caution of their slogans. These were carefully balanced to satisfy conflicting political passions and remove all offence — "freedom and fairness", "rights and responsibilities", "compassion and self-reliance", "economic opportunity and social justice", "global economy and local community".

Winning support, avoiding unnecessary controversy and seeking compromise are obvious hallmarks of this new politics, but there is more to it than that. Mr Blair, Mr Clinton and the others in Washington did not get where they were by shrinking from political battles. They have all been pugnacious and successful political bruisers. Neither have they lacked intellectual self-confidence. On the contrary, the new Third Way leaders seem surprisingly certain that, with enough intelligence, effort and goodwill, it should be possible to solve or at least manage all the world's problems, from crime and unem-

ployment in inner cities to massacres in Kosovo.

As Mr Blair actually said at one point in Washington: "History does not set problems that humanity cannot solve." The others expressed the same basic view a little more circumspectly. In Herr Schröder's words, "the new politics is about discovering the right solutions not through ideology but through intelligent experimentation" or, as Mr Clinton put it more succinctly, "what we believe in is what works".

As I listened to these bold assertions, it dawned on me that the distinguishing feature of the new left-of-centre politicians is their extraordinary self-confidence, not the ideological timidity of which they often stand accused. It is true these people are ideologically rootless pragmatists who borrow shamelessly from their opponents' principles and ideas. But this pragmatism does not necessarily reflect weakness.

It is true that the Third Way's key selling point is that it tries to move beyond the contradictions of the old Left, which is politically unelectable, and the old Right, which is morally unacceptable. But when faced with a contradiction, there are two ways that a politician can respond.

The obvious way is to try to find a compromise that offers some sop to supporters of the two contradictory positions. This is the spineless kind of pragmatism, sometimes called "triangulation", of which new Left leaders, especially Mr Clinton, are usually accused: raise the minimum wage but leave more people without health insurance; ban a few sub-machineguns but do nothing about gun control; bomb Kosovo but don't risk a land invasion.

But there can sometimes be another, more imaginative way to deal with contradictory political demands. Instead of just striking a compromise between two opposing positions, it may be possible to

reconcile the contradictions; instead of simply splitting the difference, a political leader can look for practical measures, and ultimately perhaps new ways of thinking, that move beyond the contradictory demands. In old-style Marxist language, which Third Way supporters would not, of course, dream of using, their movement seems to be a synthesis between the thesis of free-market conservatism and the antithesis of old-style socialism, rather than a messy compromise.

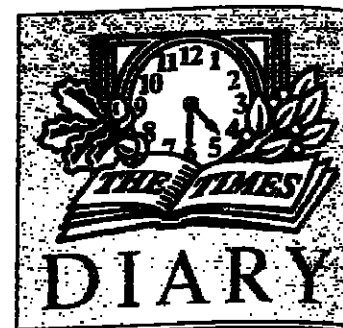
If one makes the leap of faith required to listen with sympathy, rather than derision, to the claims made by the modern left-of-centre politicians, it is this faith in finding practical solutions that reconcile and synthesise opposing forces that seems to characterise the Third Way. Instead of simply accepting the contradiction between economic prosperity and social justice, the Third Way proponents believe they can design policies to improve both economic growth and income distribution. Instead of simply offering the electorate a choice between lower taxes and better public services, they claim to be able to deliver both. Instead of making a choice between better education and more selection, they promise that both can be achieved. Instead of simply choosing between cutting welfare benefits and supporting more unproductive welfare scroungers, they say they can design policies that will force more people to work, yet offer better support to the genuinely needy.

Of course, when put in such general terms, the Third Way claims may sound dishonest and unrealistic. But it is in their detailed practical effects, not in their general philosophy, that the Third Way's policies will have to be judged. And unlike many politicians of the older generation, it is when they discuss the practical details of their policies that many of the new leaders really come to life. It remains to be seen whether the Third Way's confidence in its own cleverness turns out to be justified. To Conservatives, who are naturally sceptical about collective action, the Third Way's faith in the possibilities of efficient government seems hopelessly over-optimistic. But in this optimistic era, the efforts of the Right to redefine a genuine Conservative ideology seem even more hopeless.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk



Anatole Kaletsky



## Earl blues

SECRETS of Earl Spencer's marriage to the lovely Victoria could be aired in court, much to the old boy's chagrin. While relieved that he will not have to give evidence during his former wife's bitter court battle with her previous divorce lawyers, he is concerned that the case will wreck their confidentiality deal when Victoria graces the stand.

The countess, awarded 1.8 million big ones in her South African divorce, is suing lawyers for £1.6 million. "It's rather unfair," I am told. "I dare say the earl is not delighted by his marriage being dragged through the courts again."

Last time, small-minded gossips were treated to details of the earl's distractions with Sally Ann Lawson and a Chantal Collopy.

FOR those in search of God: the great deity can now be e-mailed at God@down.cam.ac.uk. This gets one through to His local representative, the chaplain of Downing College, Cambridge. Bruce Kinsey, "Some Christians have a sense of humour," bristles my man with the harp. "It's an easy address. No one forgets it."

GOOD to see that Harold Pinter has not lost touch with his rough and radical roots. While theatre-goers enjoyed the first night of his light entertainment, *The Birthday Party* (granted a strange West End revival), our Harold was absent. Now I know why. He and his other half, Lady Antonia Fraser, found themselves at high table with Emma Rothschild and other recluses at Trinity College, Cambridge. Not that the cast was too distressed. I ran into the splendid Prunella Scales afterwards, who had clearly benefited from Pinter's unique theatrical analysis. "He came to watch when it was on the road in Richmond," she says. "I fear it was far too early in the run."



THE "it girl" phenomenon has just been taken to its logical conclusion: so perhaps its practitioners can now quit the party scene and retire to Gloucestershire with a bar-load of Fulham estate agents. One of their number, Cat de Rham, is throwing a photo exhibition — consisting entirely of self-portraits. Blair's gallery says "the artist, in the honesty of her quest, bravely chose to shoot herself naked". While I admire such brave honesty, dear reader, please be content with this more modest work (above).

RUNNING into Ken Livingstone in his favoured Mayfair club the other day, I was taken aside to hear that he has won over the former Deputy PM, Michael Heseltine. "He said he wanted to get 'Tories for Livingstone' badges made," said Red Ken. Strangely, Hezza has a different take, calling Tony Blair's bete noire "one of the greatest jokes of modern times".



ROBERT MAXWELL is enjoying the dizzy heights of power. The old rogue's chopper — which used to land on the MGN office emblazoned with his lion logo — now flies ministers. The French Squirrel, based at RAF Northolt, boasts Bob's extra large seat, handy for fuller-figured ministers such as John Prescott. But they may feel Cap'n Bob's presence a little unnerving, as he was not renowned for his successful travel exploits.

MINUS his broken exhaust, Peter Mandelson has now found a new mode of transport — the Tube.

HUGH GRANT, nicknamed "Floppin" in *Notting Hill*, really does have a complex about his long locks. For promotion photo shoots, he was so worried about his hair that he had to drink three lagers and play Duke Ellington to relax.

JASPER GERARD

## 'Jill Dando's murder seems to be the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease — mourning sickness'

Mick Hume

The murder of Jill Dando is a tragedy for her family, friends and colleagues, a genuine shock to many other people, and a legitimate news story. So why can't we leave it at that?

Why does what should be a moment for private grief have to be elevated into a semi-state occasion, complete with appearances from the Queen and President Blair? The orgy of emotionalism can tell us little about the life of the blameless Miss Dando. Her brutal murder appears to have become the latest excuse for another public outburst of the modern British disease — mourning sickness.

Many have tried not just to report her death, but to sanctify her life, trying to endow an apparently inexplicable murder with some deeper meaning. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, set the tone for the media coverage

when he told the Commons that Miss Dando "had done a huge amount personally in the fight against crime by her role, not least in *Crimewatch UK*". In yesterday's *Times*, Valerie Grove concurred that "Because she stood bravely in the studio appealing for help in solving crime, Miss Dando stood for right versus wrong". The article also compared her televised launch of the Kosovo appeal to the anti-mine campaigning of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Posthumous attempts to depict Miss Dando as a symbol of Good fuelled the speculation that her death may have been an act of revenge by the forces of Evil. The front-page headline in Tuesday's *Express* — "Was she killed by a hitman?" — was topped by the banner headline on Wednesday's *Daily Mail*: "Was Jill killed by a Serb gunman?"

When emotionalism rushes in

the door, perspective goes out of the window. No doubt Miss Dando was a warm and charming woman. But she was also an archetypal celebrity: somebody who is famous largely for being famous, rather than for what they have done. As a television presenter who "stood bravely in the studio", she was no more responsible for solving crimes or saving Kosovo refugees than her friend Desmond Lynam is to blame for the football results.

Everybody from Julie Burchill to the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare, Miss Dando's home town, has rushed to compare her to the late Diana. "Goodbye to an English rose" read one of the floral tributes outside Miss Dando's Fulham house. And while Tony Blair just stopped short of repeating his eulogy to Diana,

Sue Carroll of *The Mirror* did it for him. "If Diana was the People's Princess," she told us, "Jill was the People's Presenter."

Miss Dando was clearly no Diana, more Tesco Metro than Harvey Nicks. Yet those trying to recreate the morbid effusion whipped up after the death of the Princess insist that they were both like "the girl next door". Where "ordinary people" loved Diana for her vulnerability and insecurity, Jill was admired for what one former boss called her "extraordinary ordinariness".

At one time, being weak might have been thought a reason for not getting the Hollywood treatment. Now it is a telling sign of our unheroic age that we should be encouraged to admire and emulate a Princess who called herself "as thick as a plank" and

a celebrity who once described herself as "Jill Blando".

The media must take their share of responsibility for encouraging much of the copycat mawkishness. The response of some journalists and broadcasters has gone way beyond the understandable sense of shock and loss at the murder of one of their own. Both the BBC and ITN produced special half-hour programmes within hours of Miss Dando's death — something they never managed for the outbreak of war in the Balkans.

Yet the media are not ultimately to blame. Many people seem only too willing to be injected with another dose of mourning sickness. At a time when people feel disengaged from the old institutions that once held them together, public displays of mourning for a Diana, a Linda McCartney

or a Jill Dando (complete with the new rituals of flower-laying, condolence-book signing, etc) have become rare opportunities to show some social solidarity.

Respect the grief of the bereaved, but don't indulge the rest of the circus. People may exhibit strong feelings during mourning sickness, but for most they are ersatz emotions, directed at people they did not know for reasons of which they are unsure. As Dr Oliver James said of the tears for Diana, "whilst the sincerity of the feelings are undoubted, their authenticity is not".

Meanwhile, in Belgrade, they drag the body of an ordinary, innocent make-up lady from the rubble of the Serbian equivalent of BBC Television Centre. No tears or TV specials for her.

The author is Editor of LM magazine. lm@informinc.co.uk



## NO PRESENT ALTERNATIVE

But Hague must take personal command of his policy review

In the immediate aftermath of Peter Lilley's address last week William Hague proclaimed proudly that his deputy had "slayed the myth" that Conservatives were bent on the outright privatisation of key public services. There has been slaughter aplenty in Conservative circles over the past few days: Mr Hague's interpretation of events continues to appear extremely optimistic. The Tory leader did, however, take the opportunity of a speech last night to offer the sort of language on public-private partnerships that had been adopted by Mr Lilley, might have rendered his lecture mercifully uncontroversial. This may help to staunch his party's wounds.

There are certain other myths surrounding this sorry saga that still need exploding. The first is the myth that the Tories are entering the final days of Mr Hague's tenure. There is a hothouse atmosphere in Westminster at present. It will be reinforced by the latest MORI poll for *The Times* which shows that Tory support has slumped again and that, by a margin even greater than that in the electorate as a whole, their remaining voters are dissatisfied with Mr Hague's performance.

But a palace coup cannot take place with a credible alternative monarch.

Kenneth Clarke remains an effective performer whose views on the single currency make it impossible for him to serve as leader. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, may have been a contender six months ago but the refusal of his much-heralded recession to appear has damaged his standing. He has also hurt himself by backing Mr Lilley within the Shadow Cabinet. Michael Portillo is not an MP and any attempt to create a by-election to boost his candidature, history suggests, is doomed to failure. There is no realistic alternative to Mr Hague as leader.

A slightly different dilemma exists with regard to Mr Lilley. The most superficially obvious way in which the Conservatives could recapture the intellectual and political credibility lost last week would be for him to offer his resignation. This would be justified by the cavalier fashion in which he has treated his colleagues, both in the content of his argument and in assessing its consequences. But if Mr Lilley departed because of the dissent over his speech, the Labour Party could cheerfully portray his fall as the price that a Tory politician pays for uttering approving words about the NHS. This could be an even worse public relations disaster. There is thus at present no realistic alternative to Mr Lilley as deputy leader.

Nor will matters be improved by a change of party chairman. Three weeks ago Mr Hague could have still elevated Mr Portillo, by far the most attractive option, to that position. To turn to a potential rival now would look like an act of desperation. It would be easier to revisit this scenario if the Conservatives made unexpectedly strong gains in next week's elections. But if that happened, Mr Hague might conclude that he had no need to summon Mr Portillo to his rescue. There is thus little realistic chance that Mr Portillo can become Conservative Party chairman.

None of this means that Mr Hague should simply sit and wait for the current controversy to dissipate. Profound damage has been done and corrective measures need to be taken. His policy document, *Action for Britain*, scheduled for publication in September, has assumed increased importance. That text cannot afford to be late, vacuous, or timid. Mr Hague has effectively surrendered that process to Mr Lilley and this has been an unambiguous example of failed leadership. The Conservative leader needs to take personal charge of his policy review and drive it through to completion. He cannot afford to assume that there will be no realistic alternative to his continued command for ever.

Yours etc.  
K. CHAPMAN,  
9 Hedgecourt Place,  
Felbridge, Surrey RH19 2PJ.  
April 24.

From Professor Emeritus  
D. Cameron Watt  
Sir, As a member of the generation that "learned their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the United Nations could preside over a new world order" (report, "Labour Left split by passions of war", April 21), I must confess that, in my experience, Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell are as untypical of the views of this generational group on Kosovo as they are of the views in the country generally.

Presenting the Orwell awards for political journalism on March 30, Baroness Williams of Crosby made one of the strongest statements in support of British policy over Kosovo I have heard. A radical journalist present said to me: "No one in our generation, remembering what we saw and learnt in Europe after the war, could stand by and watch what is happening in Kosovo today without doing something." He, I and Baroness Williams were all Oxfordshire, vintage 1948.

Much the same image of generational solidarity emerged during the public debate of 1989-91 over the war crimes legislation; though here it was confronting our elders led by Lord Shawcross, the late Lord Beloff and others.

Yours sincerely,  
D. CAMERON WATT  
(Professor Emeritus of International History),  
London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.  
April 26.

From Dr C. Storor  
Sir, Day by day the media carry growing reports of children from Kosovo who have been separated from parents and of husbands who have been separated from wives, raising the question of whether the families can ever be reunited. Those concerned do not even know whether their loved ones are alive or dead, nor which country survivors may be in.

You carried an item on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database on the Internet (article, *Interface*, November 11, 1998; report, *January 22*). Using that database, one can obtain details such as location of grave or memorial of any one of the millions of Commonwealth casualties from wars this century. It took me less than five minutes to locate an individual record, and I am an Internet novice.

Could not the Government construct a similar database carrying the name and previous address in Kosovo of all refugees seeking relatives? Presumably this could be built so that refugees could enter their own details as well as search for records of loved ones. Setting up such a database might cost less than one cruise missile.

If the Government does not start the project, I offer my services for data input if one of your readers volunteers to construct the website.

Yours faithfully,  
C. C. STORER,  
Depping, Bevil Road,  
Parkgate, South Wiltal L64 6RR.  
crist@storer.freeserve.co.uk  
April 28.

Only through personal contact with those who live on the streets can the more conventional community come to understand them. As the Prince himself found last year when he met a former school-fellow selling the *Big Issue*, the jobless and homeless are no breed apart. The danger is that they can become just that, drawn into drug-taking and despair. For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again. A recent survey asked people what they considered the most appropriate ways for large companies to mark the millennium. Almost 40 per cent cited homelessness. As the business world well understands, success lies in consumer satisfaction.

## Nato and plight of hapless Kosovans

From Group Captain  
Keith Chapman, RAF (ret'd)

Sir, The escalation of Nato's bombing campaign to include soft civilian targets such as the TV station in Belgrade (report, April 24) is not only a measure of its failure to achieve its original objectives, but also seriously undermines Nato's claim to the moral high ground.

Despite the propaganda and rhetoric coming from Brussels, Washington and Whitehall — including the optimistic assertion that Nato fortunes are set to improve dramatically with the deployment of US Apache helicopters (report, April 23) — the fact remains that bombing has done virtually nothing to alleviate the plight of the hapless Kosovo Albanians.

How many more missiles and bombs must be launched and how much more innocent blood must be shed before Nato's political leaders face up to the fact that they have dragged us into a war which no one can win? Common sense, if nothing else, cries out for an immediate end to the bombing and the simultaneous return of this complex problem to the only place where it can ultimately be resolved — the negotiating table.

Yours etc.  
K. CHAPMAN,  
9 Hedgecourt Place,  
Felbridge, Surrey RH19 2PJ.  
April 24.

From Professor Emeritus  
D. Cameron Watt  
Sir, As a member of the generation that "learned their politics in the postwar era amid hopes that the United Nations could preside over a new world order" (report, "Labour Left split by passions of war", April 21), I must confess that, in my experience, Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell are as untypical of the views of this generational group on Kosovo as they are of the views in the country generally.

Presenting the Orwell awards for political journalism on March 30, Baroness Williams of Crosby made one of the strongest statements in support of British policy over Kosovo I have heard. A radical journalist present said to me: "No one in our generation, remembering what we saw and learnt in Europe after the war, could stand by and watch what is happening in Kosovo today without doing something." He, I and Baroness Williams were all Oxfordshire, vintage 1948.

Much the same image of generational solidarity emerged during the public debate of 1989-91 over the war crimes legislation; though here it was confronting our elders led by Lord Shawcross, the late Lord Beloff and others.

Yours sincerely,  
D. CAMERON WATT  
(Professor Emeritus of International History),  
London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.  
April 26.

From Dr C. Storor  
Sir, Day by day the media carry growing reports of children from Kosovo who have been separated from parents and of husbands who have been separated from wives, raising the question of whether the families can ever be reunited. Those concerned do not even know whether their loved ones are alive or dead, nor which country survivors may be in.

You carried an item on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database on the Internet (article, *Interface*, November 11, 1998; report, *January 22*). Using that database, one can obtain details such as location of grave or memorial of any one of the millions of Commonwealth casualties from wars this century. It took me less than five minutes to locate an individual record, and I am an Internet novice.

Could not the Government construct a similar database carrying the name and previous address in Kosovo of all refugees seeking relatives? Presumably this could be built so that refugees could enter their own details as well as search for records of loved ones. Setting up such a database might cost less than one cruise missile.

If the Government does not start the project, I offer my services for data input if one of your readers volunteers to construct the website.

Yours faithfully,  
C. C. STORER,  
Depping, Bevil Road,  
Parkgate, South Wiltal L64 6RR.  
crist@storer.freeserve.co.uk  
April 28.

Only through personal contact with those who live on the streets can the more conventional community come to understand them. As the Prince himself found last year when he met a former school-fellow selling the *Big Issue*, the jobless and homeless are no breed apart. The danger is that they can become just that, drawn into drug-taking and despair. For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again. A recent survey asked people what they considered the most appropriate ways for large companies to mark the millennium. Almost 40 per cent cited homelessness. As the business world well understands, success lies in consumer satisfaction.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Walden's 'donnish' political views

From Mr Russell Wood

Sir, I have always regarded George Walden [book extracts, April 26, 27 and 28] as someone who is a complete academic and who is absolutely out of place in the political world. All the politicians he condemns, compared to him, are true political animals.

For example, William Hague has a mastery of language in the House of Commons and easily outperforms Tony Blair. His reply to the Chancellor in the last Budget debate was absolutely outstanding. He is also an orator with Churchillian qualities of whom there have been very few since the war.

All of this, however, has been lost on the donnish George Walden.

Yours truly,  
RUSSELL WOOD,  
The White Cottage,  
Chigwell Village, Essex IG7 6QB.  
April 26.

From Mr J. McCubbin

Sir, The recollections of George Walden make terrific reading. The writing is pithy and chock-a-block with flavour. They are insightful and gossipy.

The most astounding insight, however, must be the ease with which Walden could be persuaded to troop to the voting chamber of John Major's office (April 26). That a man in high office, at the peak of his career, in the pay of the taxpayer, could be so cheaply won over against his better judgment is astonishing. That he claims it was because he was so squeamish about the other opponents of Maastricht beggars belief.

When he considered the consequences of a major treaty with such profound implications for the future sovereignty of the nation, in truth, weak-willed Walden was of no more service to the nation than the pager-worshipping backbenchers of the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully,  
J. MCCUBBIN,  
Sandown House, Bakewell Street,  
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 5HJ.  
April 27.

### Tories and free market

From Mr Roger Hole

Sir, You report (April 26) Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, as saying: "In government we sometimes sounded as if we were only interested in markets... But someone suffering from cancer is a patient who wants to be cared for, not a customer within the internal market."

He seems to forget that in 1989, at the start of the Tory NHS reforms, every hospital doctor received a 15-page letter from Sir Duncan Nichol (then NHS Chief Executive) actually instructing all staff to look on all people using the NHS as "customers" — the word "patient" hardly appeared.

No one can be blamed if 15 pages of instruction stick in the memory rather longer than the occasional misunderstood comments of that Government, which he now seeks to correct as if they were just minor errors of presentation.

In 1987 I met William Hague for the first and only time: he seemed keen on the "internal market" for the NHS. A Tory decade of deliberate market policy in the NHS deserves a rather

From Professor P. B. Harris

Sir, George Walden's account of British politics circa 1997 may or may not be true, but in one respect it is caricature. As an observer of Hong Kong politics for 30 years I find his picture of Hong Kong under Chris Patten grotesquely inaccurate.

Walden sees a conflict between great forces, "democracy" (never explained in the Hong Kong context), and non-democracy. He refers to letters passed between the British and Chinese Governments as if these were the battleground of these rival ideologies. I see nothing more in these letters but a juggling of figures in a series of technical memoranda over the numbers of directly elected and functional constituency members in the final days of the colonial Legislative Council.

Chris Patten did not set out to introduce "democracy" in Hong Kong. He moved incrementally simply by working within the limits of the 1984 Sino-British Agreement, pushing popular representation to its furthest extent. Functional constituencies, or group representation, remained and remain to this day, and for the foreseeable future.

The real issue in Hong Kong is not the Legislative Council and its composition, but the survival of the rule of law, now currently being thrashed out in the courts.

Yours faithfully,  
P. B. HARRIS  
(Professor Emeritus of Political Science,  
University of Hong Kong),  
28 Queen Anne Square,  
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3ED.  
April 27.

From Mr Tony Salter

Sir, Conservative politicians must be finding it hard to believe that George Walden was once their Honourable Friend.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY SALTER,  
38 Bennett Park,  
Blackheath, SE3 9RB.  
April 27.

stronger admission of culpability if the Opposition is to be believed.

Yours truly,  
ROGER HOLE  
(NHS consultant, 1973-95),  
Wynd House,  
The Wynd, Hutton Rudby,  
North Yorkshire TS15 0ES.  
April 26.

From Mr Kenneth J. Jordan

Sir, Peter Lilley is only half right when he says that "the free market has only a limited role in improving public services like health, education and welfare" (report, April 21). Its role is, indeed, limited but the Conservative Party has not yet found or reached those limits.

Pusillanimous leadership which puts more faith in focus groups than in rigorous and radical thinking will never find those limits. Nor will it be entrusted with the task by the electorate.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH J. JORDAN,  
2 Roehampton, Cinder Hill,  
Chislehurst, East Sussex BN8 4HR.  
ken.jordan@btinternet.com  
April 27.

### Pinochet extradition

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, Lord Lamont of Lerwick (letter, April 23) plaintively asks, regarding General Pinochet: "What sort of justice is it when... it is not necessary to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a trial?"

The short answer is that it is the justice that the Government of which Lord Lamont was a prominent member forced through Parliament when enacting the Extradition Act 1989, Section 9(4). That sub-section provides precisely the matter of which Lord Lamont now complains.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT RHODES,  
4 King's Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, Lord Lamont makes an important point about the damage done to British justice by the most recent decision of the Home Secretary in the Pinochet extradition proceedings, especially in view of the implication of the law lords' statement that the number of cases of alleged malpractice had been reduced to a possible maximum of three (reports, March 25).

But there is further cause for concern with a Government that presumes openness but does not practise it. The Pinochet case can be discussed in the press, on the radio, on television, but not in Parliament where ministers claim it is "sub judice". Given that the decisions by the Home Secretary are strictly political this seems a most curious manifestation of democracy.

Yours faithfully,  
MONTGOMERY,  
House of Lords.  
April 26.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Clue to man's 'hybrid' ancestry

From Dr Euan W. MacKie

Sir, Your report (April 21) about the discovery in the Lapado Valley in Portugal of the skeleton of the four-year-old part-Neanderthal boy, about 24,500 years in age, arouses interest, not least because of the claims made about its great significance for our understanding of the relationship between these archaic humans and the newly arrived modern people, our ancestors. The skeleton is positively said by Professor Erik Trinkaus to show interbreeding between the two groups, hitherto thought of as implacably mutually hostile.

The most obvious physical feature of the Neanderthal people was their skull, with its heavy brow ridge and sloping forehead combined with a very large brain, yet the skull in this case is described as fragmentary. Is it really possible reliably to detect a hybrid individual primarily from limb bones, particularly when they are of an immature boy? The days are long gone when Neanderthals were thought to have had a shuffling, stooping gait with bent long bones; these bones were very similar to ours, though somewhat more robust.

Even if the skeleton does prove to be a hybrid, can we be as confident as Professor Trinkaus and agree that this is not a one-off "love child" but a sign of a more general mixing of the sub-species? Portugal is a long way west from the northward land route through the Near East followed by Homo sapiens when he left Africa (according to one view) and may not be typical.

The stratigraphical evidence from several rock shelters in the Dordogne is well interpreted as showing clearly that, somewhat earlier, there was an abrupt replacement of the Neanderthals by physically modern people and this evidence is not altered by the new discovery.

Yours faithfully,  
EUAN W. MACKIE  
(Honorary research fellow),  
Hunterian Museum,  
University of Glasgow,  
University Avenue,  
Glasgow G12 8QQ.  
April 22.

From Mr Shaun Taylor

Sir, The discovery of a skeleton of a young child, apparently with characteristics from both modern man and Neanderthals, is certainly a setback to the old theory that humans actively participated in the extinction of their cousins.

If the boy's skeleton is the offspring of an interbreeding of the two species the question remains, as your report suggests, as to why modern European DNA is not closer to Neanderthal DNA than DNA from other parts of the world.

Possibly, either the offspring of such couplings were sterile, or hybrid organisms frequently are, or the offspring were prone to die before they reached adulthood.

Yours faithfully,  
SHAUN TAYLOR,  
204 Hatters Lane, High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire HP13 7LY.  
April 21.

### EU patron saint

From Professor Emeritus  
Edward Gaden

Sir, St Cecilia should be the patron saint of the EU (letters, April 14, 21 and 28).

As the patron saint of music, which crosses all artificial, man-made boundaries, she could help to bring harmony to all the participating countries of the Union. Furthermore, it is not about time that we had a woman in such a position?

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD GADEN,  
91 Millhouses Lane,  
Sheffield S7 2HD.  
April 28.

### Name of the game

From Mrs Angela Callaghan

Sir, You provided today two wonderful examples of people's names eminently fitting the jobs they do. In the Dr Stuttaford article on obesity we had a Professor Michael Lean pronouncing on weight management; and in Birthdays of Westminster Abbey has the charming name of Mr Donald Buttress.

This makes a lovely start to the day.

Yours faithfully,  
ANGELA CALLAGHAN,  
59a Lee Road, Blackheath SE3 9EN.  
April 27.

### A Mir Welshman?

From Mr Anthony Moorman

Sir, Peter Llewellyn, who is said to have agreed to pay for a week-long flight on the Mir space station (report, April 28), is described as a "space-mad Welshman" and as a successful "British businessman".

I wonder whether he will be "successful British businessman who buys trip to space" or "a Welshman who failed to buy space holiday"?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY MOORMAN,  
67a Boroughgate,  
Odey, West Yorkshire LS21 1AG.  
April 28.

## MIND THE GAP

Access to Justice must mean what it says

Legal aid exists to ensure that no one is denied access to the courts for lack of money. But the costs of the current system have soared since 1949, well beyond successive governments' willingness to pay. That is partly because the system has been abused for ill-founded claims. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has recognised that lawyers are inclined to accept cases, regardless of their merits, on the basis that the taxpayer will always pick up the bill. That is why his Access to Justice Bill rightly seeks to tackle the problem of indiscriminate litigation. The Bill seeks to scrap all legal aid for personal injury claims. Instead, lawyers are to take briefs on a "no win, no fee" basis.

The taxpayer may be the winner from this arrangement, but will justice? There are two sides to any action. Those who go to law on the basis that if they do not win they need not pay their own legal bills must still face the possibility that, if they lose, they must pay the other side's costs. The Lord Chancellor envisages that insurance schemes will, however, develop to cover the risk of losing an action.

The development of an insurance market is a neat solution. But only if it meets two concerns. Insurance must be widely available and easily affordable. And, for those who cannot always afford premiums but who need justice, there must be a certainty that their actions, if worthy, can proceed. The House of Lords has amended the Bill in an effort to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable potential litigants are not denied justice.

Insurance companies are prepared to exploit this new market, but they have their own obligations. They are inclined to offer cover only if they can be certain that most cases will be won. The mathematics of

insurance, and the need to spread risk, make such a calculation inevitable. It is fair to say that most cases which do not have a good chance of success should not be taken up. The insurance market could act as a surer judge of which cases are worth pursuing than lawyers who can rely on the taxpayer to fund speculative actions.

But there are still concerns. If an insurance market fails to mature then only those with very deep pockets will be able to pursue their claims. Some insurance companies are already refusing to deal with solicitors who lose too many cases. Even if solicitors do try to insure all their cases, they will still need to think carefully about the number of risky actions they take on. Injured people with cases which appear difficult may find it hard to find a solicitor. Then there is the cost factor. Even a standard personal injury claim is likely to cost more than £100 to insure.

The Lord Chancellor says that a "hard cases" fund will be set up to protect such people. But he has refused to write such protection into the Access to Justice Bill. The House of Lords amendment seeks to rectify this perceived failing. It tries to ensure that a safety net will exist in the legislation to cover all deserving cases. The amendment is supported by the Law Society and the Bar Council. The Lord Chancellor should not just dismiss their campaign as special pleading. While the amendment for which both they, and leading charities, have campaigned may not be the most effective means of balancing access to justice and taxpayers' concerns, there is a need for Lord Irvine to provide greater reassurance. His worthwhile reform should not be blighted by a perception that it will benefit the many at the expense of a deserving few.

## GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Why companies should help the homeless

Governments should not need to preach family values. When they do, it is a sure sign that the staple unit of society is breaking apart, that in an increasingly fragmented culture people are being cut adrift. The fallout is only too evident. The streets of London are home to a bedraggled army of beggars trailing blankets, beer cans and pet dogs on strings. At least 500 people in the capital are known regularly to sleep rough. And the problem does not end at King's Cross or Victoria. From Reading to Hove, they sprinkle the commuter belt. They are to be found in all Britain's city centres. Yesterday's visit by the Prince of Wales to The Passage, London's largest day centre for the homeless, served to publicise just how severe this problem has become.

The homeless cannot be stereotyped as a bunch of old alcoholics or aggressive scroungers too idle to work. They form a diverse community ranging from teenagers forced to flee abuses to former members of the Armed Forces. Food, a fixed address, access to washing facilities and a training in basic skills offer those who have stumbled a fresh opportunity to find work and self-respect.

This is where corporate leaders can offer essential support. As president of the charity Business in the Community, the

Prince of Wales yesterday urged business executives to consider innovative ways in which to reinstate homeless people in society. These may begin with straightforward material contributions, financial gifts or donations in kind. Clothing companies, for instance, might provide interview suits, or hoteliers old bed linen. But less tangible generosity is even more welcome. Company employees have many skills to pass on. They can offer their time in mentors' roles. And employers, rather than discriminating against the ambitious simply because they are homeless, could seek out such people in job placement schemes.

Only through personal contact with those who live on the streets can the more conventional community come to understand them. As the Prince himself found last year when he met a former school-fellow selling the *Big Issue*, the jobless and homeless are no breed apart. The danger is that they can become just that, drawn into drug-taking and despair. For publicity-conscious companies, helping the homeless may not seem enticing. They should think again. A recent survey asked people what they considered the most appropriate ways for large companies to mark the millennium. Almost 40 per cent cited homelessness. As the business world well understands, success lies in consumer satisfaction.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
April 28: Mrs Mary Francis was received by The Queen upon relinquishing her appointment as Deputy Private Secretary when Her Majesty invested her with the insignia of Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen was represented by the Hon Mary Morrison, Woman of the Bedchamber, at the Funeral of Mr Charles Martyn which was held at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Hinton, Christchurch, today.

**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
April 28: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed from Jeddah for London.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived at RAF Northolt. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
April 28: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Patron, today received the President, the Lord Campbell of Alloway, and members of the Colditz Association.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
April 28: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited the Community Resource Centre, St Vincent's, Carlisle Place, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, later attended the Seeing is Believing Homelessness Seminar. The Prince of Wales this afternoon opened the Dudley Stationery Distribution Centre, holders of the Prince of Wales's Warrant, at Crown Close, Wick Lane, Bow, London.

His Royal Highness this afternoon received the Prime Minister.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 28: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, held a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Ocean Youth Trust, this afternoon met the outgoing Chairman, Mr Colin Sharman, and the incoming

Chairman, Mr Alan Kingsley at Buckingham Palace.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 28: The Princess Royal this morning was received by President Mubarak at the Presidency, Heliopolis.

Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the Integrated Care Society, Heliopolis.

The Princess Royal subsequently visited the British Council, Heliopolis.

Her Royal Highness later visited the Association for the Protection of Environment (APE) project, Mogatani.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon visited the Regional Office, Cairo.

Her Royal Highness afterwards attended a Reception at the British Council Head Office, Agouza.

The Princess Royal later visited Brooke Hospital for Animals, Zehn Al-Bahien.

Her Royal Highness subsequently unveiled a plaque outside The British Embassy, Cairo, to mark the Embassy's refurbishment. The Princess Royal this evening attended a Reception given by the British Ambassador to Egypt (Sir David Blatherwick) at the Residence.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
April 28: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the Trustees, this morning attended a meeting with the Trustees and Canadian Members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Group at Whitehead Mann, Hill Street, London W1.

His Royal Highness, Grand President, this afternoon attended the Annual Investment of the Grand Lodge of England at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, followed by dinner at the Savoy Hotel.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
April 28: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Royal Honorary Colonel, this evening visited The Royal Yeomanry at the Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London.

## Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a service of the Royal Victorian Order in St George's Chapel, Windsor. After the service the Queen will give a reception in the State Apartments, Windsor Castle, for members of the Order and Medalists.

The Prince of Wales will visit Sherborne School for Girls, Bradford Road, Sherborne, Dorset.

The Duke of York, president, will attend a reception for the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions at the National History Museum, London SW7, at 6.00.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)

## King Hussein of Jordan

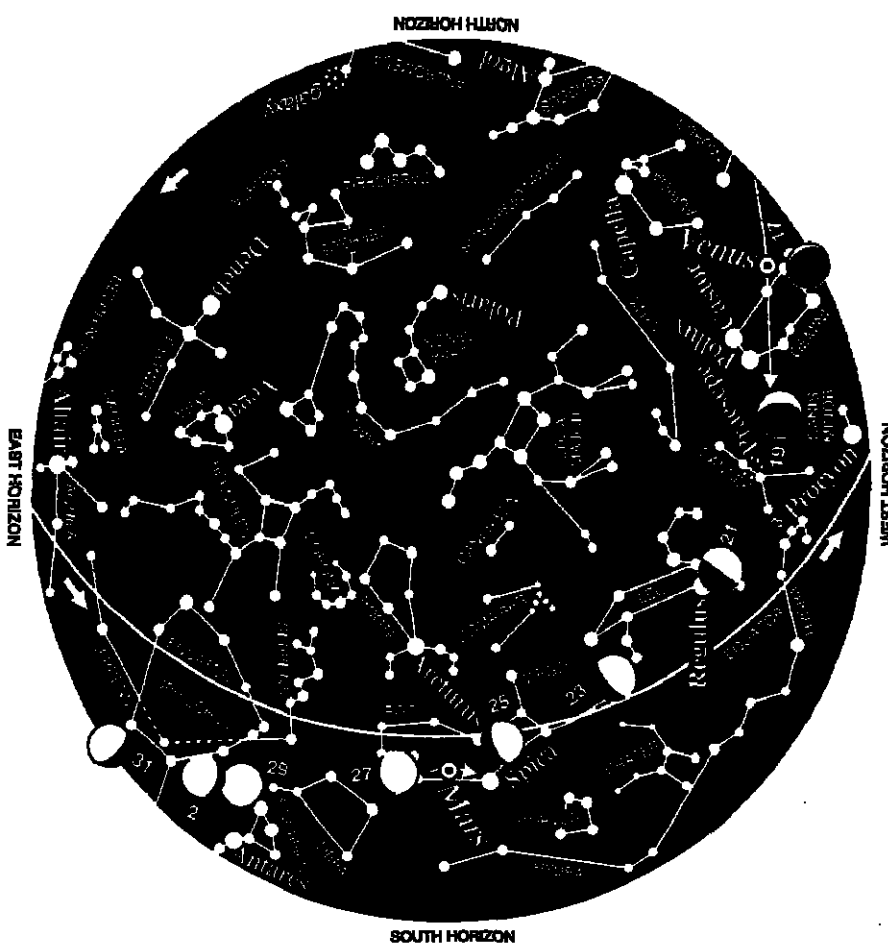
A memorial service for King Hussein of Jordan will be held in St Paul's Cathedral at 11am on Monday, July 5. Admission will be by ticket only and those wishing to attend should apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: The Secretary, Anglo-Jordanian Society, 31 Little Road, London SW7 7LL. Tickets will be issued in June.

## College of Chiropractors

Mr Timothy Jay, President of the College of Chiropractors, welcomed the guests at the official launch of the college held yesterday at the Kings Fund, Cavendish Square. Sir Terence Atkinson, Baroness Fookes, Mr David Ashford, Dr Lorne Newman and Lord Newton of Brainlee also spoke.

## The night sky in May

By MICHAEL J. HENDRIE  
ASTRONOMY  
CORRESPONDENT



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 22h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 22h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg

minutes, while the partial phases will last about two hours and a half.

Only during the two minutes of totality is it safe to look directly at the Sun without protecting the eyes with special filters. Then the Sun's photosphere, the bright "surface" that we see normally and which gives us daylight, is hidden by the Moon and in a clear sky it is possible to see the bright red narrow rim of the chromosphere, and sometimes a few prominences projecting from the Sun's surface.

Also visible should be the much fainter outer corona, a plasma which may extend several times the Sun's diameter. This very hot and diffuse gas is normally invisible to us without very special instruments, hidden by the scattered light from the much brighter photosphere. As the sky suddenly darkens to twilight conditions the brighter stars and planets can often be seen.

During totality nothing would be seen through a filter dense enough to protect the eyes from full sunlight. So it is only during the two minutes of totality that it is safe to look at the Sun without eye protection. At any other time it is unsafe to look directly at the Sun, except perhaps when it is very near the horizon and strongly reddened as at some sunsets. The fact that it is uncomfortable to look at the bright Sun enables us to go about our daily business without staring at it automatically though it is shining up there a good part of the time. But when something interesting is happening there is the temptation to screw the eyes and take a chance. Do not be tempted!

As most of us will want to follow the partial phases of the eclipse what can be done to make this safe? It is not only the bright visible wavelengths that can damage the sight. Some filter material may dim the Sun to a comfortable level of brightness but still allow dangerous ultra-violet and infrared wavelengths through. One will not see

or feel these until damage has been done. It is even more dangerous to look through any instrument that collects more radiation than the eye, for example binoculars, a telescope or a camera viewfinder unless special filters are fitted over the Sun-facing lenses. Filters should never be put just over the eyepieces, the lenses closest to the eyes. Filters intended to be used with binoculars, telescopes and cameras must be obtained from a reliable source, be in good condition and be used under expert supervision.

There are safe ways of projecting the Sun's image on to a screen. Alternatively one can obtain one of the special safe filters that will reduce the Sun's glare to a comfortable level and screen out those invisible radiations. These can be in the form of cardboard spectacles. Next month I will suggest two ways of projecting the image and what to look for in obtaining suitable naked eye filters.

west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes.

Mr A.R. Clark and Miss L.V. Gravett. The engagement is announced between Ian Taylor, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.T. Cook, of Stanning, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and Isabel Veronique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.I. Gravett, of Woking, Surrey.

Viscount Cranley and Miss L.V. Jones-Fenleigh. The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of the Earl and Countess of Onslow, of Temple Court, Clarendon Park, and Leigh, eldest daughter of Mrs Patricia Jones-Fenleigh, of Oakham, Rutland, and the late Edward James Jones-Fenleigh.

Mr A.R. Cross and Miss F.A. Miller Mundy. The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Harold Cross, of Waipukurau, New Zealand, and Flora, daughter of Mr Andrew Miller Mundy, of Mrs Bridget Miller Mundy, of Harris, Western Isles.

Dr J.D. Candall and Miss J.M. Kent. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr John Candall, of Sherburn, and Mrs Zeila Candall, of Acklam, North Yorkshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr John Kent and Mrs Mary Kent, of Stafford.

Mr J.A. Gardner and Miss H.R. Holmes Daykin. The engagement is announced between Jed Alan Gardner, of East Sussex, and Helena Ruth Holmes Daykin, of Yorkshire, both now of London.

Mr M.J.H. Gault and Miss A.E. Wherry. The engagement is announced between Marcus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Gault, of Heathfield, East Sussex, and Amy, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Wherry, of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire.

Mr D.J. Hennessy and Miss A.J.C. Hall. The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs John Hennessy, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Antonia, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs John Hall, of Long Sutton, Somerset.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.R. Clark and Miss L.V. Gravett. The engagement is announced between Ian Taylor, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.T. Cook, of Stanning, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and Isabel Veronique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.I. Gravett, of Woking, Surrey.

Dr J.D. Cook and Miss I.V. Gravett. The engagement is announced between Ian Taylor, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.T. Cook, of Stanning, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and Isabel Veronique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.I. Gravett, of Woking, Surrey.

Viscount Cranley and Miss L.V. Jones-Fenleigh. The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of the Earl and Countess of Onslow, of Temple Court, Clarendon Park, and Leigh, eldest daughter of Mrs Patricia Jones-Fenleigh, of Oakham, Rutland, and the late Edward James Jones-Fenleigh.

Mr A.R. Cross and Miss F.A. Miller Mundy. The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Harold Cross, of Waipukurau, New Zealand, and Flora, daughter of Mr Andrew Miller Mundy, of Mrs Bridget Miller Mundy, of Harris, Western Isles.

Dr J.D. Candall and Miss J.M. Kent. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr John Candall, of Sherburn, and Mrs Zeila Candall, of Acklam, North Yorkshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr John Kent and Mrs Mary Kent, of Stafford.

Mr J.A. Gardner and Miss H.R. Holmes Daykin. The engagement is announced between Jed Alan Gardner, of East Sussex, and Helena Ruth Holmes Daykin, of Yorkshire, both now of London.

Mr M.J.H. Gault and Miss A.E. Wherry. The engagement is announced between Marcus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Gault, of Heathfield, East Sussex, and Amy, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Wherry, of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire.

Mr D.J. Hennessy and Miss A.J.C. Hall. The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs John Hennessy, of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Antonia, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs John Hall, of Long Sutton, Somerset.

Mr A.W. Greville-Collins and Miss H.C. Greaves. The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr Warwick Greville-Collins, of Roujan, France, and the late Mrs Patricia Greville-Collins, and Henrietta, daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy (Podge) Greaves, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr M. Griffiths and Miss C.A. Fidler. The marriage will take place in Pyrford, Surrey, on June 19, 1999, of Matthew, son of Dr and Mrs Andrew Griffiths, of Chiswick, London, and Charlotte Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Fidler, of Pyrford.

Mr S. Leonard-Morgan and Miss S. Nash. The engagement is announced between Scott, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.J. Leonard-Morgan, of Bromley, Kent, and Samantha, daughter of Mrs Bea Nash, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr C.W. Moyle and Miss J.C. Franklin. The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.D. Moyle, of Omsley, Worcestershire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel A.W. Franklin, of Charlton, West Sussex.

Lord Sudeley and Mrs M. Kellert. The engagement is announced between Lord Sudeley, of Marylebone, London, and Mrs Margarita Kellert, of Kingsclere, Hampshire.

**Marriage**  
Mr C.D.M. Boyd and Miss J.S. Percy. The marriage took place on Saturday, April 24, 1999, at St Cuthberts Parish Church, Edinburgh, between Mr Charles Boyd, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Boyd, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Miss Jill Percy, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs Ian Percy, of Edinburgh. The Rev Tom Cuthbert officiated.

**Dinners**  
Speaker. The Speaker gave a dinner last night at Speaker's House in honour of Mr Ivor Hansen, Speaker of the Folketing. The Danish Ambassador was present. The other guests were:

Mr Tom Clarke, MP; Mrs Irene Adams, MP; Mrs David Bell, MP; Mr Ray Rogers, MP; Mr Clive Bates, MP; Viscount Colgrave, MP; Mr Jim Dowd, MP; Mr Neil Hamilton, MP; Mr Christopher Gill, MP; Mr Nick Harvey, MP; Mr Alan Haseldine, MP; Miss Anne McIntosh, MP; Dr Nick Palmer, MP; Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP; Mrs Helen Shipley, MP; Mr Alan Simpson, MP; Mrs Rachel Spire, MP; Mr David Whittall, MP; Mrs Ann Winterton, MP; Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP; Mr Ole Sig Andersen, Mr Jeremy Crosswell, Mrs Beate Dalgaard, Mr William McKel, Mrs Sarah Riley, Mrs Maynard Sharp, Mrs Anne Adair, Mrs Robert Wilson, Canon Robert Wright and Mr Nicholas Bearn.

**Air Force Board**  
Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, presided at a dinner given by the Air Force Board Standing Committee last night at RAF Bentley Priory to mark the retirement of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Headquarters Strike Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, and Air Marshal Sir Colin Terry, Air Member for Logistics. Lady Allison, Lady Terry and Air Marshals and their ladies were among those present.

**Foundation for Science and Technology**  
Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society last night. Lord Jenkin, Mr Peter Beck and Professor John Durant were the speakers.

**Shipwrights' Company**  
The following have been elected officers of the Shipwrights' Company for the ensuing year: Prime Warden, Mr Peter Tadball; Remon Warden, Dr T. John Barr; Third Warden, Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall; Fourth Warden, Mr David Cobb; Fifth Warden, Mr Alastair Farley.

**Company of World Traders**  
The following have been elected officers of the Company of World Traders for the ensuing year: Master, Alderman Sir Roger Cork; Senior Warden, Miss Susan Hughes; Junior Warden, Mr Bryan Whalley.

**University news**  
Leicester. The following will receive honorary degrees from Leicester University in July: Mr Tim Appleton, Master of Science; Professor Dame Gillian Beer, Doctor of Letters; Dr Philip Campbell, Doctor of Science; Dr Ken Edwards, Doctor of Laws; Professor Fred Leckie, Doctor of Science; Mr Chris Moon, Master of Laws; Professor Sir Keith Peters, FRS, Doctor of Science; Mr Raymond Seitz, Doctor of Laws; Sir Richard Sykes, FRS, Doctor of Science; Professor Sir Tony Wrigley, FBA, Doctor of Letters.

## School news

**Eton College**  
The Fellows of Eton College are pleased to announce that The Queen has approved the appointment of Dr Eric Anderson to be Provost of Eton in succession to Sir Antony Adani who will retire in the summer of the year 2000.

**Heathfield School, Ascot**  
Heathfield School, founded by Miss Eleanor Beatrice Wyatt in 1899, celebrates its centenary in May. A stained glass window in the school chapel, donated and made by Patrick and John Reynolds, is to be dedicated at Eversong on Sunday, May 9. A Celebration Eucharist will be held at St Augustine's, Queen's Gate, London at 2pm on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 13, Sister Veronica Ann, SSC (Ain) will preside at the service. The school will give an address. Centenary Fellowship Day for Old Girls will be held at Heathfield on Saturday, May 15, when a marquee lunch will be followed by Eversong conducted by the Rev Brian Hugg, Chaplain at Heathfield from 1989-1995. On Sunday, May 16, all parents have been invited to the school for Sports Day when there will be a dedication of the Foundation Stone for the indoor swimming pool complex to be built as a result of the Centenary Fund-Raising Campaign and opened in the summer of 2000.

**Mr Peter Wheeler** was the guest speaker at the annual presidential luncheon of the Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) held yesterday at Saddlers' Hall. Mr Paul T. Reed, president, was in the chair. Among those present were:

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Master of the Bench, William Sharnham, QC, Sir Nicholas Lyle, QC, Mr. The Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the Solicitor of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division and Queen's Remembrancer, the High Sheriff of Greater London, the High Sheriff of the City of London, the President of the Law Society.

**The Federation of Environmental Trade Associations** held yesterday at the Brewery, Chiswell Street, London. Mr Graham Carter, President of the British Refrigeration Association, was in the chair.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

## Luncheons

**Carlton Club**  
The Earl of Stockton, Mr Giles Chidester, MEP, and Mrs Angela Harvey were among the speakers at a luncheon of the Carlton Club Political Committee held yesterday at the club. Mr Simon Mabey, chairman, presided. Mr Fred Tuckman also spoke.

**Mid-Atlantic Club**  
Baron Bernard Snay, Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Belgium, Luxembourg and Slovenia, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid-Atlantic Club held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Sir Peter Marshall, Chairman of the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council, presided.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

The Society Medal has been awarded to Mr Howell Harris Hughes and the Fred Medal to Dr Maria Mango.

**Antiquaries of London**  
The following have been elected officers of the Society of Antiquaries of London: President, Mr S.S. Jarvis; Treasurer, Dr D.F. Rems; Director, Mr A.G. MacGregor; Secretary, Mrs S.M. Young.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

## BIRTHS

**LOCHMARTIN** - On April 28th, 1999, to Louise (née Lloyd), and Crispin, a son, Oliver Brian.

**MAIDMENT** - On April 28th, 1999, to Louise (née Harry) and James, a son, James Harry.

**MAYES** - On April 28th, 1999, to Laura (née Buchanan) and James, a son, Angus Alexander, a brother for Hugo.

**NEWMAN** - On March 21st, 1999, to Anne (née Czarnecki) and Peter, a daughter, Victoria Anne, a sister for Jonathan.

**PULLEN-FREELICH** - On April 28th, 1999, to Karl Pullen and Michael Freulich, a son, Felix Augustus, a brother for Louis.

**SERPIN** - On April 28th, 1999, to the Portland Hospital, to Monica and Ramiel, a daughter, Roshika, a sister for Raviel.

**VON SCHMIDT** - On April 28th, 1999, to Sarah (née Patten) and Robin, a beautiful daughter, Isabella Clara.

**WESTERHAYES** - On April 28th, 1999, to Katy (née Armitage) and Nick, a son, George Lewis, a brother for Jasmine.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

**GOZZER** - On April 28th, 1999, at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, to Corinne (née Sheppard) and Andrew, a son, Matthew Joseph.

## DEATHS



# MAJOR-GENERAL J. M. H. LEWIS



Mike Lewis: sapper with artistic interests

Major-General J. M. H. Lewis, CBE, wartime sapper and staff officer, died on March 6 aged 79. He was born on April 5, 1919.

AFTER a varied war, in which he took part in the planning of Chindit operations in Burma, Mike Lewis found himself in the early 1950s involved in the largest building project ever undertaken by the British Army. This was the construction in Germany of a new headquarters for Northern Army Group at Rheindalen, near Mönchengladbach.

Joint Headquarters — JHQ for short — was designed to accommodate not only units of the British Army of the Rhine, but also German and Dutch elements of the army group. Since Germany was the most important Cold War posting for the British Army, it required the construction of what amounted to a small town to house 9,000 families of serving military personnel. When it was completed, to drive through the barrier at

Rheindalen was to pass out of the countryside of the Lower Rhine plain into an English small town atmosphere, complete with red-brick houses, familiarly named streets, shops and neatly trimmed civic flowerbeds.

The site at Rheindalen had been virgin woodland at the end of 1952 when work began, yet the whole complex was ready by July 1954. During these two years Lewis was principal staff officer to the chief engineer in charge of the venture, Colonel Harry Gratton, who had rebuilt Quetta after the earthquake of 1935. Lewis was appointed OBE for his work on the project.

John Michael Hardwicke Lewis was the son of Brigadier Sir Clinton Lewis, a sapper who became Surveyor-General of India. He went from Chundle to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from where he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1939.

In 1940, being a highly proficient skier, he resigned his commission to serve as a guardsman with the

5th Battalion Scots Guards, a special unit in which all members had to be able to fight on skis. It was raised to support the Finnish Army against the Soviet Union which had invaded Finland in November 1939. But before the unit could sail the Finns had been defeated and Lewis returned to the life of a sapper officer.

Later in 1940 he joined the 18th Division, which was sent to Singapore. In February 1942, a few days before the fall of Singapore, he was one of the few selected to escape in the very limited shipping available. Selection was based on the potential usefulness of the individuals to the war effort elsewhere.

After a hazardous journey via Sumatra and Java, with the Japanese never far behind, the party requisitioned a flat-bottomed Chinese river steamer and with a scratch crew set off for Ceylon. They arrived safely despite three near-misses by Japanese torpedoes.

Lewis was next sent to India to Wingate's Chindit headquarters.

There, and later in Burma, he was involved in planning special forces operations until the war ended.

After the construction of JHQ in Germany he served as second in command of 22 Engineers Regiment in Tripoli, after which he had two years as Commander Royal Engineers in Gibraltar. There, helped by his wife Barbara, he devoted his spare time to the historic library, which had been founded by Pitt the Younger, and is housed in a fine Georgian building. Neglect had led to serious deterioration of valuable books, and Lewis set about getting the library into good order and arranged the installation of air-conditioning to prevent further damage.

Among his later jobs were two years on the international military staff of Nato, based in the Pentagon, which gave him an insight into the differences in the approach to defence problems taken by the Americans, French, Germans and other Nato allies. His final appointment was as Assistant Chief of Staff

(Intelligence) at SHAPE. There, in the words of a contemporary, "He managed the usual tightrope of relations with the Americans and Canadians on the one hand, and the European members on the other, with singular skill and grace." He had been advanced to CBE in 1970 and retired in 1975.

In retirement Lewis devoted himself to his interest in art, which stemmed from his coming from a family which had produced five generations of professional artists. He published three books: *Michael Marieschi: Venetian Artist* (1967); *J. F. Lewis, RA, 1805-1876* (1978); and *The Lewis Family: Art and Travel* (1992).

The study of J. F. Lewis led to his being invited to address the Royal Academy. He was also a regular lecturer for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. From time to time, his views were sought by auction houses and by scholars.

Mike Lewis is survived by his wife Barbara, and three sons.

## GEOFFREY WIGODER

Geoffrey Wigoder, author and encyclopaedist, died in Jerusalem on April 9 aged 76. He was born in Leeds on August 3, 1922.

GEOFFREY WIGODER was part of the small Anglo-Jewish elite who went to the newly founded state of Israel in the late 1940s to help to shape its intellectual and professional life. In Jerusalem he teamed up with his Oxford mentor, the Anglo-Jewish historian Cecil Roth, to make his mark as an encyclopaedist. They produced the one-volume, 2,000-page *New Standard Jewish Encyclopaedia*, which remains an indispensable companion for students of the Holy Land. Ten years later, in 1966, they set to work on the 16-volume *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, one of the major Jewish cultural achievements of this century.

In each case Wigoder started as Roth's deputy, but on his death in 1970 he took over as editor-in-chief. For the *Encyclopaedia Judaica* he scoured the world for experts on the most abstruse reaches of Jewish learning. He marshalled an army of 1,800 contributors who ranged from a rabbi in Puerto Rico to a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. The *Encyclopaedia* is on the shelves of every academic and many a suburban and provincial general library.

He came well primed to the task. Geoffrey Bernard Wigoder was the son of a dental surgeon in Leeds, a first-generation immigrant from Lithuania. He went to Leeds Grammar School, and moved from there to study medieval Jewish history at Trinity College Dublin. After gaining his MA, he went on to Oxford to do a doctorate.

With that he joined the Jewish Theological Seminary, the conservative rabbinic training college in New York. The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and his chance meeting at the seminary at about that time with a young lady called Deborah McDwyer cut short his ambition to be a rabbi.

After marriage the couple settled in Jerusalem where

Wigoder's first job was in the English department of the Israel Broadcasting Corporation. He soon took charge of all its overseas operations, became a BBC correspondent and wrote for *The Yorkshire Post*.

To supplement his salary, Wigoder joined the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and set up its oral history department, as well as becoming director of Israel's Film Archive on Mount Scopus (his personal collection of films and videos ran into thousands).

After the *Encyclopaedia* was published, he went on writing scholarly works, such as *Jewish Art and Civilization*, *The Story of the Synagogue* and *Jewish Christian Relations in World War II*, as well as newspaper columns for *The Yorkshire Post*, *The Jerusalem Post* and many others. He also helped to found the Israel Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.

In his late sixties he ducked retirement and set out to carve a new career for himself in Christian-Jewish relations. He was a regular contributor to the Catholic weekly *The Tablet*, and only last year he gave the Cardinal Bea Lecture in London.

As a companion he was fun as well as formidable. And he remained at heart an expat Briton, reading *The Times* every day, sending cuttings from it back home to his sister, the actress Thelma Ruby, and refusing to go bed on a Saturday night without news of that day's result from Leeds United.

His wife survives him, along with two sons.



gogue and Jewish Christian Relations in World War II, as well as newspaper columns for *The Yorkshire Post*, *The Jerusalem Post* and many others. He also helped to found the Israel Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv.

In his late sixties he ducked retirement and set out to carve a new career for himself in Christian-Jewish relations. He was a regular contributor to the Catholic weekly *The Tablet*, and only last year he gave the Cardinal Bea Lecture in London.

As a companion he was fun as well as formidable. And he remained at heart an expat Briton, reading *The Times* every day, sending cuttings from it back home to his sister, the actress Thelma Ruby, and refusing to go bed on a Saturday night without news of that day's result from Leeds United.

His wife survives him, along with two sons.

Al Hirt, trumpeter, died on April 27 aged 76. He was born on November 7, 1922.

Like his fellow-horn player Harry James, Al Hirt was a formidable and versatile technician who found a lucrative niche in showbusiness. Reluctant even to accept the label of jazz musician, he preferred to describe himself as a "pop commercial" performer. Based in his native New Orleans, he remained a talismanic figure in "Dixieland" jazz, a style which continues to attract a huge following without much in the way of media coverage.

His club, Bourbon St South, was for many years one of the city's landmarks. Hirt played for thousands of visitors intent on discovering something of the roots of the Big Easy's musical heritage. When he pulled down the shutters for the last time in 1983, blaming the rising crime rate for a fall in the number of tourists, he found himself at the centre of controversy, and subsequently apologised to the mayor over the tone of his remarks. Nevertheless, he continued to perform at venues in the French Quarter, and when Pope John Paul II visited the city four years later, it fell to Hirt to play *Ave Maria* in his honour.

The son of a policeman, Alois Maxwell Hirt studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, a grounding which stood him in good stead in later years, when he recorded a Haydn Trumpet Concerto with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Nicknamed "Jumbo", he was a physically imposing individual. His powerful attack is said to have been the result of learning to play a pawnshop trumpet which had been damaged during makeshift repairs and which as a result required exceptional lung power.

An admirer of Harry James and Roy Eldridge, Hirt played in swing bands after serving in the Army. He went on to work with Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Ray McKinley, among others, before deciding to return to New Orleans. Traditional jazz was enjoying a revival at this point, and along with the clarinetist Pete



Al Hirt performing at a music festival in Kansas City in 1963

Fountain, Hirt began to build a strong following. In the early years, however, he and Fountain made ends meet by taking day jobs as exterminators with the A & M pest control company. Their partnership continued on and off for decades after Fountain settled

into his own club at the Hilton. Hirt's transition to national fame at the end of the Fifties included appearances on the immensely popular *Lawrence Welk Show* on TV and regular bookings in the high-paying lounges of Las Vegas. By 1961 he was performing at the inauguration of President Kennedy.

He enjoyed spectacular sales as a solo artist on discs such as *Horn A-Plenty*, and was also regularly paired with performers as varied as Ann-Margret, *Honey in the Horn*, released in 1963, reached No 3 in *Billboard's* album charts that year. His debut at Carnegie Hall two years later yielded another successful recording, by which time he had also veered towards the country market with his hit *Java*.

In 1970 he suffered a hip injury — always a serious problem for a trumpeter —

when he was apparently struck by a brick during a Mardi Gras parade. It was some months before his playing returned in all its vigour.

Defiantly unfashionable, Hirt had an indirect hand in nurturing what has become the most famous dynasty in jazz — the Marsalis clan of New Orleans. The pianist Ellis Marsalis was a member of Hirt's band in the Sixties, and it was during an engagement at Bourbon St South that Hirt — seated at a table with two greats, Miles Davis and Clark Terry — gave Marsalis's young son, Wynton, his first trumpet. Wynton Marsalis later recalled that Davis told Hirt: "Don't give it to him. Trumpet's too difficult an instrument for him to learn."

Hirt and his first wife, the late Mary Paureau Hirt, had eight children. He leaves a widow, Beverly.

## ROLAND HUNT

Roland Hunt, CMG, diplomat, died on March 24 aged 83. He was born on March 19, 1916.

ROLAND HUNT's career spanned the turbulent period of the ending of the British Empire and the beginning of the Commonwealth. He served in many parts of the world, and his experiences ranged from trying to prevent the island of Anguilla from breaking away from St Kitts and Nevis to commenting on cricket in Pakistan.

Roland Charles Cohn Hunt was born in his grandparents' Highgate house, shortly after his father's capture on the Western Front. He and his two brothers were brought up in an austere Oxford home where his mother ran a very tight ship; even her knitted socks could be found stored and labelled ("Roland 1925"). After the war, his father became an inspector of schools in Oxfordshire.

The Hunt boys were educated at the Dragon School, where Roland revelled in classics, cricket, music and acting as Laertes he scored an unscripted victory over Hamlet when the graveside fight led to the Prince's retirement with a bloody nose. He went on to Rugby with a scholarship, continued to act, and toured Scandinavia in Shakespeare. He then won a scholarship to The Queen's College, Oxford, where his curly hair moved one elderly don to regret that Hunt was not a girl.

In 1938 Hunt joined the Indian Civil Service, then spending a year on "Empire Studies" at Oxford, which encompassed horse-riding in the Parks, but no political education beyond talk about troublemakers hoping for independence. Hunt realised that a career in India was likely to be brief, and when war broke out he applied to join up but was told that governing India was more important. Accordingly he was shipped out, followed in a highly irregular manner by his wife Pauline, whom he had married that September.

His career in India was indeed foreshortened, lasting until 1947. He enjoyed his spell at the hill station Coonoor where the tigers still roamed, though his work as a collector meant sometimes going down into gardens to collect the taxes hidden in holes in the ground. But by 1946-47, Hunt was in the Secretariat in Madras, living in a spacious house overlooking the Adyar River and trying to ensure that the supply failures which had caused the great famine were not repeated.

Leaving India, he entered the Commonwealth Relations Office and was sent to South Africa, where he helped to negotiate the Simonstown Treaty, which secured collaboration between Britain and South Africa after the withdrawal of the Royal Navy

from its base there. In his final report home in 1955, he forecast that the apartheid regime would not survive for long.

Malaya was one of the few Commonwealth countries to gain independence in the 1950s. As Deputy High Commissioner there, Hunt struck up such a good relationship with the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, that when Benjamin Britten's entry to the competition for a new national anthem arrived, the Tunku descended upon his cottage and insisted that Hunt play it on the piano.

Agreeing that it would not do, they tentatively proposed some modifications and returned the score to Britten. No more was heard, and a local dance tune was chosen instead.

In 1962 Hunt returned to



Pakistan as Deputy High Commissioner, working particularly with British companies involved in civil engineering projects, and trying to ease Indo-Pakistan relations, which blew up into another war in 1965.

In that year he became High Commissioner in Uganda, where relations between the Prime Minister, Milton Obote, and the Kabaka of Buganda — "King Freddie" — were dangerously tense. Unfortunately, the Kabaka made a public visit to the High Commissioner's residence to appeal for British support for his regime, making it seem that Hunt supported his cause. As a result the Kabaka was exiled to Britain, where he died after completing his memoir *The Desecration of My Kingdom*.

On his return to Whitehall in 1967, having been appointed CMG, Hunt worked on what were then less controversial issues, such as Caribbean banana quotas and relations between the Falkland Islands and Argentina. He was made High Commissioner in Trinidad in 1970, and enjoyed a peaceful period in this final posting until 1973. He and his wife had a special way of hosting parties anywhere in the world, usually with music and acting games, and preferably coinciding with the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race.

His wife died in 1989. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

### TICKETS FOR SALE

CHEAPEST IN LONDON Phoenix, Catalogue, 0171 447 8552.

ENGLAND V Scotland, UEFA Champions League Final, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

OFFICIAL Wimbledon Tennis Championships, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

### FOR SALE

A BRITISH Newspaper Original, 18th Century, 0171 447 8552.

DESSERTS, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

THE TIMES, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

YORK, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

FLATSHARE

MAIDA VALE Double in lovely city, 0171 447 8552.

### FLATSHARE

SHARE-A-FLAT Ltd, 0171 447 8552.

W/Land, 2 min Tube, 0171 447 8552.

### SITUATIONS WANTED

20 YEAR OLD Male, 0171 447 8552.

W/Land, 2 min Tube, 0171 447 8552.

DESSERTS, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

THE TIMES, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

YORK, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

FLATSHARE

MAIDA VALE Double in lovely city, 0171 447 8552.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

RELIABLE, 0171 447 8552.

W/Land, 2 min Tube, 0171 447 8552.

### FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

20 YEAR OLD Male, 0171 447 8552.

W/Land, 2 min Tube, 0171 447 8552.

DESSERTS, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

THE TIMES, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

YORK, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

FLATSHARE

MAIDA VALE Double in lovely city, 0171 447 8552.

### FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

20 YEAR OLD Male, 0171 447 8552.

W/Land, 2 min Tube, 0171 447 8552.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

RELIABLE, 0171 447 8552.

W/Land, 2 min Tube, 0171 447 8552.

DESSERTS, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

THE TIMES, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

YORK, 1999, 0171 447 8552.

FLATSHARE

MAIDA VALE Double in lovely city, 0171 447 8552.

## EXPERIENCE URGENTLY NEEDED

If you have managerial or professional experience, let REACH find you an interesting and satisfying part-time, expenses-only voluntary job with a charity close to home.

People like you are urgently needed to work with voluntary organisations in most parts of the UK including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Why not talk to one of our local Representatives about this free volunteer placement service in your area? For details - in confidence and without obligation - please write, e-mail or phone us. Today.

## reach

finding voluntary jobs for experienced managers and professionals

Bear Wharf, 27 Bankside, London SE1 9ET  
 Tel: 0171 928 0452  
 e-mail: volwork@teinernet.com  
 website: www.volwork.org.uk  
 Registered Charity No. 278837

## THE SALMON POOL

SPRING has been late this year, cold and wet. Even by mid-April the alder buds were little more than buds, and only the primroses, which grow so quickly on the red sandstone, and the anemones, and the colour of the buds not yet unfolded, show that it is spring and not winter. And all the time violent showers of rain and sleet.

To the salmon fisher the rain is at once a blessing and a curse. The usual cold, dry, bright Easter means no water, either no fish, or fish which will not rise. Therefore it was a pleasure to see the full river. But, alas! if it once begins to rain the habit, like other bad habits, is apt to continue. So, when the river is falling and clearing, and one hugs oneself at the thought of the sport to come, it again rains heavily on the hills, the river rises again and colours, the fish start once more on their upward journey, and there is no take till the water falls again — which may be when the fisherman has gone sadly back to London.

Still and all, the rain, though it came down capriciously and spoiled what might have been a record, did give us three days of glorious sport. And it gave us what is the essence of salmon fishing, the sense of fighting with the elements, which makes February and March fishing so attractive, but which is often denied to the Easter fisherman. Your dry-fly man was as little wind as possible — the trout must be approached with delicacy and accuracy — the day must be calm and bright.

But the salmon is a mighty, fierce fish, and half the pleasure in pursuing him is the sense of power with which the heavy rod forces the fly over the tumbling river into the water, exactly to the place where it should go.

## ON THIS DAY

### April 29, 1925

A typical "feature" of prewar days when there were no pictures, and no double column headings to embellish articles on nature, fashion, gardening, motoring, science and so forth.

Therefore, if he gets three days out of us when the water is right, if the fish are taking, and if the fight with the elements leads to victory, the salmon fisher is a happy man.

The first pool is fished more by routine than with hope of success. It is used to be good, but the bank has fallen in, and no many fish have been caught there lately. We do not spend much time on it, but shuffle as quickly as we can in our waders to the second, a small pool called, oddly enough, the Luggage Pool, because (as is carefully explained) "some colleagues who were camping out on the bank once lost all their luggage there." It is difficult wading among the big boulders, but one need not go far. It is one of those places which, for some unknown reason, salmon seem to like so much — where two main streams meet in a V. The fly is cast beyond the farther stream, the rod held well out, and the fly hung so that it swings round into the point of the V. One cast, two casts, three casts then, as the fly comes round, a gleam of gold, not silver, for the water is still slightly coloured, and the scream of the reel. "You didn't see him the first time," says the gillie, as he prepares the gaff, to the fisherman struggling painfully to shore with the point held high. And I was glad I had not. Who knows but that I would have struck too soon? Three leaps, a suborn struggle, and he is on the bank — 10lb.

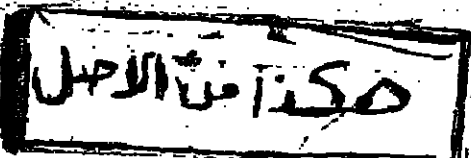






## The \$20bn meeting at Goldman

Business, page 31



BUSINESS • ARTS • BOOKS • SPORT • TELEVISION

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 29 1999

## Jude and the Obscure

Arts, page 36

## Nat Power chief goes in shake-up

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL POWER, the country's biggest non-nuclear generator, has sacked its chief executive and is reviewing its dividend policy, which is expected to result in a substantial cut, and that profit would be hit by the sale of the Drax power station. The sacking and shake-up have reignited bid speculation in the City and the shares rose 15p to 406 1/2p.

Keith Henry was told to go by the board after a series of apparent U-turns in National Power's strategy, a poor performance in the share price and mounting criticism from investors and unions.

Mr Henry, who joined the generator four years ago from Brown & Root, is expected to get a pay-off of nearly £1 million. Last year he earned an £859,924 package and was given performance-related shares worth £313,000. He has 244,898 share options but 49,582 of those have a strike price higher than the current share price.

Although National Power said that Mr Henry resigned, it is understood that he did not want to leave but was given no option at a boardroom showdown on Tuesday.

His departure comes at a difficult time for National Power as it seeks to find a buyer for Drax. After yesterday's warning, analysts now expect annual pre-tax profits to be cut by £100 million a year once the sale of Drax is completed, although the station contributed £200 million to operating profits in the year to March 31. The generator is also to review its capital structure, triggering ex-



Henry: told to go by board



Collins: long look at strategy

pectations that it could mount a share buyback after the sale of Drax.

Things started to go wrong for National Power in March last year when it issued a £130 million UK profits warning because of the end of the coal contracts. This was followed by an international profits warning in the autumn. The generator further shook confidence in February this year when it emerged that it had been in merger talks with United Utilities. National

Power had always said it didn't want a full regional electricity business, let alone a water and electricity business such as United.

A search is now on for a successor to Mr Henry. Sir John Collins, the non-executive chairman, is to act in an executive role until an appointment is made while Graham Brown, the managing director, will become chief operating officer. Sir John, who is chief executive of Avesta, wants someone with different skills to those of Mr Henry. Mr Henry was seen as a build and buy chief executive whose vision was unhinged by the Government's order to sell power stations and by the changing UK electricity market.

One name likely to be in the frame is John Devaney, former head of the Energy Group, who left the company shortly after its takeover by Texas Utilities. Mr Devaney would be seen as more focused and determined than Mr Henry, who has for long been compared unfavourably with the forthright Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen.

Sir John said: "I will be taking a long look at the strategy and seeking the right person for the job. We will take as much time as necessary."

Peter Atherton, analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said Mr Henry's removal put National Power properly into play as a bid prospect after months of expectation because of its poor performance. He said: "The management team has disappointed the investment community too much over the past 16 months."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "It is to be hoped that National Power now achieves stability and purpose. The company clearly has enormous potential but that has not been achieved yet."

National Power is to set its final dividend at 19p (18p), making a total of 28.6p (27p).

## Nethercott sacked over 'scam'

Managing director lied to the board, says chairman

BY FRASER NELSON

RAY NETHERCOTT, the managing director of Allied Carpets who quit the company last Friday, was sacked yesterday for allegedly lying repeatedly about his part in the accounting scandal that hit the company last year.

Julian Lee, chairman, said the board has evidence to prove Mr Nethercott was aware about a "phantom sales" scam that came to light in July last year. Mr Nethercott has had his contract terminated without compensation.

Mr Lee said: "I had always thought I had known Ray quite well, but clearly I didn't. He told the board he had no idea about the goings-on. I was extremely surprised and shocked to learn this was not the case."

It is unclear whether Mr Nethercott may be liable to prosecution by allegedly misleading Arthur Andersen, the auditors who resigned over the affair. Paul Manser, partner at law firm Taylor Joynson Garrett, said Section 17 of the Theft Act, outlaws company directors making false statements with the intent of misleading shareholders. He added that Section 233 of the Companies Act states that directors who knowingly approve false accounts are guilty of an offence.

Allied Carpets admitted last summer that its store managers had been marking a carpet as "sold" as soon as an order was placed. The practice, known as "pre-dispatching", is not illegal but violated company policy that sales should not be marked as completed until delivery. The scam flattered trading figures and led to £3 million charge against profits last year.

Eight months ago, David Pout, finance director, resigned with a £221,000 payoff. He said he had no knowledge of the scam. Steve Barber, sales manager also left with £156,000 compensation.



David Pout, left, with Ray Nethercott, who was sacked by Allied Carpets on Friday

## Business Today

Commentary: 29  
Time to pull the rug: 29  
Stock market: 30  
Oil sets the pace: 30  
Equity prices: 35  
Unit trusts: 34



Graham Searjeant  
on false Messiahs

Page 32

### STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100: 6098.9 (+5.2)  
FTSE All Share: 3041.54 (+2.83)  
Nikkei: 16942.24 (-15.08)  
New York: 10845.74 (+14.03)  
Dow Jones: 1357.88 (-4.94)  
S&P Composite: 1357.88 (-4.94)

### US RATE

Federal Funds: 4 1/4% (4 1/4%)  
Long bond: 5 3/8% (5 3/8%)  
Yield: 5.59% (5.54%)

### EURO AREA

3-month interbank: 5 1/4% (5 1/4%)  
3-month long bill: 115.00 (115.40)  
3-month Euro: 115.00 (115.40)

### STERLING

New York: 1.6150\* (1.6182)  
London: 1.6151\* (1.6182)  
Paris: 1.5137\* (1.5178)  
SF: 2.4455\* (2.4555)  
Yen: 162.45 (164.24)  
£ Index: 104.1 (104.1)

### YEN

London: 1.6117\* (1.6089)  
Paris: 1.5137\* (1.5178)  
SF: 2.4455\* (2.4555)  
Yen: 162.45 (164.24)  
£ Index: 104.1 (104.1)

### YEN

London: 1.6117\* (1.6089)  
Paris: 1.5137\* (1.5178)  
SF: 2.4455\* (2.4555)  
Yen: 162.45 (164.24)  
£ Index: 104.1 (104.1)

### YEN

London: 1.6117\* (1.6089)  
Paris: 1.5137\* (1.5178)  
SF: 2.4455\* (2.4555)  
Yen: 162.45 (164.24)  
£ Index: 104.1 (104.1)

### YEN

London: 1.6117\* (1.6089)  
Paris: 1.5137\* (1.5178)  
SF: 2.4455\* (2.4555)  
Yen: 162.45 (164.24)  
£ Index: 104.1 (104.1)

## Chairman ready to underwrite Ashley issue

BY FRASER NELSON

LAURA ASHLEY yesterday sold its loss-making US stores for just \$1 and was then cast a further financial lifeline by Dr Kay Peng Khoo, the company's Malaysian billionaire chairman, who has agreed to underwrite another rescue rights issue.

The £24.6 million rights issue is likely to see Dr Khoo raise the 40 per cent stake owned by his MUI Asia empire, to 60 per cent.

The sale of its disastrous US venture sees Laura Ashley retaining debts accrued of £4 million. Goldman Sachs, its merchant bank adviser, has been looking for a buyer since last September. The \$1 paid by its management is understood to have been the only offer received. It was told it was in danger of being put into receivership unless it sold the US

shops. Laura Ashley has already spent the £44 million it raised when it originally asked for Dr Khoo's help last year. It also had a £50 million bank overdraft facility which expired last Friday. The company has now negotiated a new £43 million overdraft facility which expires next April.

If there is no support for the 199 million shares being issued at 13p apiece then MUI and Dr Khoo will take them up. One analyst said yesterday: "The City institutions will not be climbing over each other to support this rights issue. The Malaysians are welcome to it."

Laura Ashley yesterday also reported a loss of £31.9 million for the year to January 30, an improvement on the £49.3 million loss last time.

Commentary, page 29

## Unigate lifts bid for Terranova

UNIGATE, the food and dairy group, looked odds-on last night to win its hostile attempt to take control of Terranova, the prepared foods business spun out of Hilldown Holdings last year (Robert Cole writes).

Unigate raised its 125p-a-share cash offer to 150p late yesterday, and revealed that it had secured a promise from Phillips & Drew, the pension fund manager, to support the new offer. The offer is final unless a rival bid comes in of 160p or more. P&D speaks for 13.1 per cent of Terranova.

Crucially, however, in late trading, Unigate raised the market to acquire a 29.9 per cent stake in Terranova for itself. Together with P&D's 13 per cent and 5 per cent acceptances on the earlier bid terms, Unigate can count support from 48 per cent of Terranova stock.

Terranova said it is "considering" the revised offer. Its rose to 148 1/2p from 139p yesterday. Unigate added 13p to close at 438 1/2p.

## Business rate rises 'put City jobs at risk'

BY MARTIN WALLER

LONDON businesses face having to pay an extra £800 million a year when the new business rate comes in from April next year, according to research by two respected property consultants. There are fears that significant job losses will result.

Organisations such as the Corporation of London and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry are warning that the capital will be particularly badly hit this time around.

Although the new rates have yet to be set, research by Gerold Eve and CB Hillier Parker suggests that Central London could have to find an extra £4 billion over the next five years.

In the City, the evidence suggests that rates bills could rise by 70 per cent, while occupiers of new buildings could see

even higher rises. Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of London First, the inward investment agency, said a gradual phase-in of increased rates is essential if London is to compete with other European and world cities.

Opponents of the present system are also calling for an additional levy of 1p for every pound paid across the country in business rates. This would be set aside in a special fund to alleviate the highest increases. Without any reform, said Mr O'Brien, "pressure may be renewed on existing businesses to relocate outside central London. One major consequence of this would be the potential loss of a large number of jobs."

LINKS  
WEBSITE: www.chief.london.gov.uk

## EU to investigate Longbridge deal

BY SIGRID AUFTERBECK

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Union's Competition Commissioner, yesterday demanded that BMW produces evidence that its "Hungarian option" was ever a serious alternative to building its new Rover model at Longbridge.

Mr Van Miert has called for the information as the Commission launches an investigation into whether the aid granted by the British Government to ensure production stays in Birmingham should be approved by Brussels.

Speculation has increased that BMW's stated contingency plan of moving new Rover production to Hungary was just a ruse to squeeze financial support from the

British Government. The Department of Trade and Industry agreed last month to grant BMW Rover's German parent, aid of about £150 million.

Sieff Ruting, a spokesman for Mr Van Miert, said: "Since the automobile industry is a sensitive sector with existing overcapacities, the limits that apply for subsidies are particularly tight. To be eligible for aid, BMW must prove that investing in Britain would be substantially more expensive than elsewhere outside the EU."

Jürg Danner, a spokesman for BMW, said: "We had informal talks in Hungary about specific sites there but we always made it clear that Longbridge was our preferred location."

Tony Woodley, the union negotiator at

Rover, said he was confident that BMW would have enough evidence to convince the Commission about the Hungarian option. "Once Mr Van Miert sees the facts, he will learn that there had been a serious competing bid from the Hungarian side," he said.

If BMW fails to produce any evidence, opposition to the subsidy will mount. Wenden Widukind, head of Porsche, threatened in March to challenge the aid package. Only last week, Ford was eager to point out that production of a new model at its Dagenham plant, which will increase production there by two thirds, will be launched without subsidies.

Commentary, page 29



Van Miert: inquiry







# Time to pull rug from under Lee



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Julian Lee is not resigning as the chairman of Allied Carpets. Despite being an accountant and having been blissfully unaware of the long-running accounting irregularities that have caused Allied such difficulties, Mr Lee has no intention of deserting his shareholders.

They may not find this a source of great comfort. Mr Lee remained in the chair of textile company Hollas as it descended into receivership. He took over as chairman of the business in 1993. In 1996 he was proclaiming that Hollas was on track to be a leading clothing supplier, despite appearances to the contrary. Less than two years later, it was gone.

Mr Lee may have been better able to take the disappointment than some of his shareholders: he had made £3 million after leading the buyout of Broom from British & Commonwealth Holdings and selling it on. British & Commonwealth, however, did not survive for much longer.

Mr Lee was the chairman of Allied Carpets when it came to market in 1996, the prospectus signed off by the chaps at Arthur Andersen, his old firm. If the auditors could not spot what was going on at Allied, then perhaps it was not surprising that the chairman missed the trick. But Arthur Andersen is the company's auditor no longer.

If executives are out to hoodwink the auditors, they can often

succeed. It happened at Wickes, for instance, where a complicated system produced different invoices for different audiences. The Allied accounting rules seem to have been such that Sherlock Holmes might have found it hard to spot the discrepancies.

As the £2 million black hole was exposed, executives bowed out but Ray Nethercott remained at his desk. He may not have been the best at selling carpets, but he excelled at keeping things under them. In August last year, as the Allied share price sank to 53p because of the scandal, he vowed that "the rebuilding process starts today". But it did not. Yesterday Allied was looking even more sickly, its shares at just 39p. Last year venture capitalist Alchemy was proffering a bid at 55p but found its offer spurned after an initial friendly reaction.

Shareholders will not see the like of that again. Allied's problems now go well beyond its accounting systems and straight to sales. Lord Harris of Peckham would have taken the firm out of its misery if the competition authorities would have allowed. Instead of that, he is simply taking the business. The carpet king has

no qualms about hitting a competitor when it is down and Carpetright is offering promotions that Allied cannot afford to equal.

Mr Lee may have seized his ample frame into the managing director's chair, but he will need to move fast to fight Lord Harris. Shareholders might feel inclined to suggest that he bows out with his managing director and does not risk another Hollas.

## What hope for lovelorn Laura?

There are celebrations all round at Goldman Sachs, as even the humblest telephoneist looks forward to a hand-out of shares that should yield a hefty bonus in future years. Were she in kindly mood, she might contemplate blowing some of that future wealth in advance on a Laura Ashley outfit.

That Laura Ashley is still

afloat is testimony to the remarkable skills of the investment banking house and its star turn, John Thornton, in particular. But the Malaysians who were persuaded to save Laura from bankruptcy by the then chairman, one John Thornton, must be wondering what on earth they saw in her.

Now MUI is faced with putting £25 million more into keeping the old girl afloat. Their intention must be that, once they emerge as the majority owners of the business, they will be able to take it private so that they can conceal further indignities from public view. Mr Thornton will then be absolved from his current non-executive directorship and be able to wipe out the whole sorry episode — if Sir Bernard Ashley will let him.

If the irascible Sir Bernard had been able to accept that Ashley stopped being a family business the day it was floated, the picture might look very different

now. Instead, he interfered and the company suffered a rapid succession of managers.

The current incumbents face a difficult task, even if they will be soon addressing it away from the glare of the public spotlight. Laura may still have her fans, although by now they must be confused as to whether she stands for pretty prints or modern tailoring of the kind favoured by Anne Iversen. But shoppers are not splashing their money around, as Arcadia made clear yesterday.

The tenor of the statement from the company was not quite as gloomy as the figures it reported, but chief executive John Hoerner was far from upbeat about the prospects on the high street. Arcadia has cut back its forecasts and is keeping prices in check.

Its high street chains may face a toughening up of the competition as Philip Green gets to work on the Sear's businesses that he now owns. Mr Green would find it hard to make a worse job of run-

ning them than the previous management, but the chances are that he will soon be pockmarked the proceeds from selling them on to others. Mr Hoerner must be wondering whether he should stand back and risk a sharper competitor getting hold of his rivals or dig deep and buy them himself.

## Burns goes to extra time on penalties

Steering the new Financial Services Act onto the statute books was never going to be an easy task but expecting Lord Burns to knock it into shape within just four weeks was asking the impossible. The former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury is a man of many talents but distilling the concerns of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament over one of the more controversial pieces of proposed legislation would be a rushed job with a six-month timetable.

Lord Burns does not have the luxury of that but he has been allotted another month. The issues of concern that have arisen were predictable. There is some worry over the definition of market abuse, a failing which is proba-

bly more easily discernible in practice than it is on paper. Those drafting the legislation feel sure that a Clapham omnibus-riding IFA or broker would recognise market abuse when he met it.

The issue of greatest concern, however, remains the disciplinary powers with which the new authority is to be endowed and the fears that these might amount to a breach of human rights. Lawyers have exhibited unusual generosity of spirit in pointing out their suspicions on this front now instead of waiting to take on the cases that might be generated were the Bill to go unchallenged. Lord Burns should use his extra time to ensure that the disciplinary system will be speedy and fair, even if this makes it more costly.

## Subsiding subsidies

KAREL Van Miert's days as Competition Commissioner in Brussels may be numbered but he is not going to let that stand in his way now that the government subsidy for Rover has caught his attention. But as he huffs and puffs he might take note that between 1995 and 1997 the average subsidy for each worker employed in manufacturing industry in Italy was £2,302 and in Germany it was £1,569. For the UK, the figure was just £381. The Longbridge workers could argue that they deserve more.

## ICI sells paints business to PPG

By CARL MORTISHED  
INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS EDITOR

ICI is selling an industrial paints business to America's PPG for £425 million in a deal that will further reduce its borrowings after this month's £1.4 billion sale of the titanium dioxide and polyurethane businesses to Huntsman.

PPG is acquiring ICI's refinishing coatings, used in vehicle damage repair, and Grow Automotive, a North American solvents and thinners business, as well as a variety of industrial coatings operations in Latin America and Asia.

The deal will contribute a pre-tax profit of £190 million for ICI and the deal will have a neutral effect on earnings over the next year.

PPG has been attempting to build up its industrial coatings business over the past year, and earlier in April bought a minor coatings business from ICI in Germany. The US company lost out to Akzo Nobel in its attempted bid for Courtaulds and missed acquiring Herbets, the coatings business which was sold by Hoechst to DuPont.

ICI's debt burden, taken on when the company acquired Unilever's fragrance and flavourings businesses, will fall to £2.3 billion after the disposals to Huntsman and PPG. It is still seeking buyers for the halochemicals businesses which together have sales of about £1.5 billion.

# TI tops up with Walbro of the US in £356m purchase

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

TI GROUP, the specialist engineering company, has made a \$570 million (£356 million) recommended takeover bid for Walbro, a petrol tank maker listed on Nasdaq.

The purchase, which is expected to enhance earnings from next year, is aimed at enabling TI to meet vehicle makers' demands for integrated fuel systems.

TI makes flowlines for transporting fuel to the engine and Walbro specialises in tanks made from advanced composite materials and petrol pumps.

Walbro reported earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of \$79 million last year from sales of \$678 million.

The price includes \$388 million of assumed debt, most of which stems from Walbro's heavy capital investment programme of the past three years.

TI will also incur a \$25 million cost to buy out Walbro's management under that company's change of control provisions.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, the TI chairman, said that about \$9 million of this would be paid to Frank Bauchiero, Walbro's chief executive.

The total offer represents an earnings multiple of 7.2-times Walbro's 1998 earnings on an EBITDA basis.

It is pitched at a premium of more than 60 per cent to Walbro's share price shortly before the bid was announced.



TI chairman Sir Christopher Lewinton, right, with finance director Martin Angle. The deal includes \$388 million of debt

Sir Christopher said Walbro would meet TI's internal hurdle rate, which is a 15 per cent return on investment within three years of purchase. He said the deal would make TI the first company in the world to supply a totally integrated

fuel system. The composite materials used to make Walbro's tanks meant it would also be able to offer significant environmental advantages over its competitors. This was because there was less scope for hydrocarbons to escape. Sir Christo-

pher said the integrated fuel systems business was worth \$6.5 billion a year, of which TI would have 15 per cent.

Michael Blogg, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, said he had revised his 2000 forecast earnings growth for

TI from 11 per cent to 14 per cent on the back of the deal.

Mr Blogg said TI could be expected to lift Walbro's margins significantly from the current level of about 6 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

# Arcadia shares rise despite profits slump

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Arcadia yesterday rose 14 per cent as the Burton's to Principles retail group said it came out of the Christmas sales slump in better shape than the City expected.

The shares jumped 32½p to 272½p even though Arcadia turned in interim profits more than halved to £23 million (£50.3 million).

The company said that its sales growth returned in February and March, but stopped short of giving a figure.

Arcadia had been expected to be among companies hardest hit by the downturn in retail sales because it pays top rents for places in most UK high streets and retail parks.

John Hoerner, chief executive, said that the group lost about 1.5 percentage points in gross margin to shift-unsold

stock after Christmas, but had maintained its market share.

Analysts are divided on the share performance. Some question whether a £37 million charge for an internal shake-up should have been put as a one-off item. Others say Arcadia is being chased by fans of its Internet retail service, which has more than half the UK online market.

Mr Hoerner said: "These could not be described as good profit figures by any stretch of the imagination, but they are obviously better than some people were expecting."

Arcadia shares have fallen 14 per cent in the past ten days. Basic earnings per share were 19.5p (31.2p). The interim dividend is held at 4.7p.

Tempus, page 30

## M&S to leave Canada

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

MARKS & SPENCER has ended its disastrous 26-year foray into Canada, announcing yesterday that it would close its 38 stores within a year.

The move, which will cost M&S £25 million, has placed a big question mark over the future of the group's stores outside the UK, many of which also incur heavy losses.

M&S's Canadian arm has crawled out of the red just once since its creation in 1973, prompting questions from analysts yesterday about why the company was so slow in addressing the problem. It made an £8.3 million operating loss in the year to March 31, 1998.

An M&S spokeswoman said the decision had been prompted by the expiry of many of the store leases held in Canada. A strategic review of M&S's activities is due to be unveiled in June.

## Merger approach lifts Partco

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Partco rose 30 per cent after the car parts and crash repair company reported it is in possible takeover talks for the second time in less than ten months.

The talks centre around a possible £178 million bid — 245p per share — for the company, representing a premium of 36 per cent to the closing share price on Tuesday, the day before the talks were announced. Last year Partco rejected a £420 million merger approach from Finelist.

Analysts yesterday ruled out Finelist as a possible suitor because of its weak balance sheet. Another candidate is GE Capital, the US financial services company. Another possible bidder is Ford, which took over the Kwik-Fit chain for £1 billion earlier this month. Partco is one of Kwik-Fit's main car parts suppliers. Shares in Partco closed up 53½p yesterday at 233½p.

# First Leisure and Cannons halt talks

By DOMINIC WALSH

CANNONS GROUP and First Leisure yesterday abandoned plans to merge their health and fitness businesses — just two days after announcing that they were discussing a deal.

The merger, under which Cannons would have issued new shares to acquire First Leisure's fitness division, was terminated after the sides said they were "unable to reach agreement on the financial terms". A deal would have doubled Cannons's market value

to more than £500 million. Neither side would elaborate, although it is understood that the amount of debt First Leisure wanted to inject into the enlarged group was one of the issues. One analyst said: "Cannons is only in the market for deals that are earnings enhancing. What First Leisure brought to the table clearly wasn't earnings enhancing."

It is understood that three First Leisure executives would have joined the enlarged Cannons board, including Patrick Henchoz, the head of its fit-

ness division. Mr Henchoz last week received £4.3 million from the sale of a minority stake in ISL Leisure, one of First Leisure's subsidiaries. First Leisure paid a total of £13.8 million to buy out the 23 per cent of ISL it did not already own, the balance of £9.5 million going to Nash Sells & Partners, the venture capital group.

Cannons, formerly known as Vardon, may consider a move on Pinnacle Leisure, which abandoned plans for a £70 million flotation last year and is considering a possible trade sale. Cannons

said: "Cannons is an acquisitive company and is the strongest pure health and fitness company in the market financially. There are plenty of opportunities."

The failure of the talks heightens the pressure on Michael Grade, the First Leisure chief executive. The sale had been expected to result in a break-up of the company. Analysts expressed concern at the lack of action. First Leisure shares closed down 7½p at 246½p while Cannons was unchanged at 192½p.

IOD convention, page 32

# business.matters@demon

whatever the size of your business, the internet will help you compete. you'll be able to deliver fast, efficient service worldwide, quicker than you can lick a stamp. and at demon, we have a range of options to meet the demands of your business including dial-up, isdn and leased-line access. when your needs grow, we can continue to help. after all, nearly 100,000 businesses already rely on demon to handle their internet needs. so if you want to accumulate, communicate. start by phoning demon on 0800 027 9199 or write your name, company and address anywhere on this ad and send it to freepost demon.



**Demon Internet**  
**0800 027 9199**

www.demon.net email: netsales@demon.net

A ScottishTelecom Company



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Oil companies pump out good gains after reports

OIL shares took up the baton from telecom stocks by dragging the rest of the equity market back into positive territory after a nervous start.

Overnight support by American investors for oil-related companies set the pace reflecting the latest rise in the price of a barrel of oil. Sentiment was flavoured by a bullish report from the American Petroleum Institute which revealed that US crude oil stocks had fallen by 4.7 million barrels in the week to April 23. Year-on-year, crude stocks were also down 6.6 million barrels.

The report fuelled further gains for the price of oil on world markets where a barrel of North Sea Brent crude was changing hands at \$16.28. That is in stark contrast to the low of just under \$10 a barrel reached earlier this year.

Among the leaders, BP Amoco jumped 36p to £11.60, Shell 9p to 454p, while among the exploration companies Ranger Oil stood out with a rise of 15p to 270p.

Share prices generally lacked much of the sparkle seen earlier in the week despite a strong overnight performance by the Dow Jones industrial average and opening gains last night.

The FTSE 100 index managed to reverse an early 16-point deficit and, at one stage, again breached the 6,000 level. But it was running out of steam towards the close following two consecutive days of impressive gains. In the event, it closed 5.2 up at a new high of 6,598.8. The FTSE 250 index also rose 5.0 to 5,813.7 as the total number of shares changing hands reached 1.8 billion.

The life assurance operators managed to post some useful gains with Prudential Corporation climbing 50p to 919p after highlighting the success of its Egg banking operation. It has achieved its five-year target plan of 500,000 customers and £5 billion of savings in just six months. Warburg Dillon Reed, the broker, has been pushing the Pru as a "buy".

Encouraging trading statements lifted Sun Life & Provincial 28p to 577p and Royal & Sun Alliance 15p to 527p. United Assurance also advanced 14p to 469p. Speculative buying hoisted Independent Insurance 26p to 258p.

British Airways firmed up to 504p after becoming the



Frank Sytner, chairman, saw shares of Sytner Group rise 11p to 212p on the back of a positive annual meeting

first non-financial company to raise extra funds with an issue of euro-denominated fixed interest stock. The issue of £300 million (£200 million) has a nominal value of £25 and a fixed coupon of 6.75 per cent.

British American Tobacco put on 22p to 505p ahead of first-quarter results later today which should see pre-tax profits come in at between

£280 million and £295 million, down from £311 million. The profits warning from Stanley Leisure, down 55p to 248p, where margins in its horse racing operation have come under increasing pressure also took a toll of rival Ladbroke, 184p off to 293p.

Sainsbury retreated 34p to 400p as HSBC Securities, the broker, reiterated its "re-

duce" recommendation and target price of 350p for the shares. It has also lowered its rating for Tesco, 1p lighter at 186p from "hold" to "reduce" now that the price has reached its target of 187p.

An upbeat trading statement lifted Ocean Group 10p to 963p. Shareholders at the annual meeting were told that trading in the first quarter had lived up to expectations for the freight forwarder. The group is looking for suitable acquisitions to develop its air and sea freight activities. The price has more than doubled since hitting a low of 472p in October last year.

Bullish comments at the annual meeting had investors beating a path to Sytner Group, up 11p to 212p. The motor distributor says 1999 has got off to an encouraging start with profits well ahead of budget and the corresponding period last year.

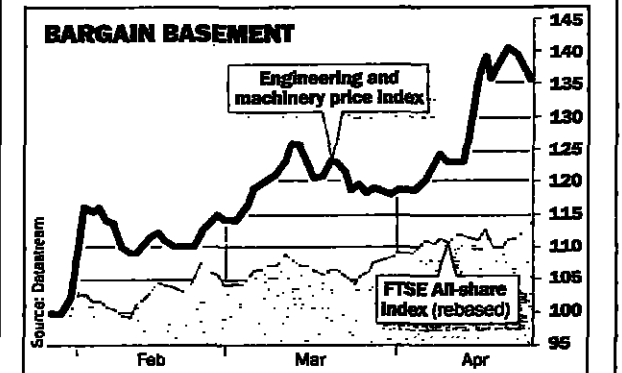
But some cautious comments about current trading led United Carriers 24p off to 204p. The haulier reported a decline in volumes but said it was too early to say whether it was temporary or a growing trend.

A-listed Artisan (UK) touched 94p before ending 9p better at 8p. Rosebowl, a private company, has bought 1.3 million shares, or 15.4 per cent. At the same time, Stephen Dean, chairman, has bought an additional 929,135 shares for his adult children's family trust. He now controls 24.9 million shares, or 29.9 per cent.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices were dealt a blow by the cool reception given to the latest auction of 30-year index-linked stock. The issue of £500 million nominal of Treasury index-linked 2030 was only 94 per cent subscribed. Other index-linked issues suffered with losses stretching to £4 in places.

News of the auction also left the June series of the long gilt nursing a loss of 38p to £116.08 as the number of contracts completed reached 44,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 shed 9p to £145.12, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 9p lighter at £105.76.

NEW YORK: US blue chips were mixed in early trading with cyclical strong. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 14.03 points to 10,845.74.



BARGAIN hunting is the name of the game these days. Some investors have been happy to plough their money into fashionable sectors such as drugs, telecoms and high-tech. Others would sooner seek out value among those companies left behind in the bull run.

Charterhouse Securities, the broker, maintains engineering and machinery is one such sector. It has outperformed the FTSE All share by 10 per cent and restored value to those levels not seen since August 1998.

But Michael Blogg, at Charterhouse, insists that there is still value to be had. Comments made by Bodycote International at the time of its results were misinterpreted and the shares, down 12p to 987p, have scope for improvement.

Others on his shopping list include FKI, up 15p to 174p. McKee, 55p dearer at 447p, and Vitec Group, 5p better at 562p. All three companies are strongly placed in their world markets and enjoy strong management.

COMMODITIES											
LIFE				KIS-LOR (London 5.00pm)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				CRUDE OILS (\$/barrl Pms)				LIFE WHEAT			
May	71	71	71	Brnd Pms	15	15	+ 0.00	May	77.25	May	77.50
Jun	71	71	71	W 1500 Int	15	15	+ 0.00	Jun	77.25	Jun	77.50
Jul	71	71	71	Brnd 15 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	77.15	Jul	77.25
Sep	72	72	72	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	77.15	Nov	77.25
Oct	74	74	74	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	77.15	Jan	77.25
Nov	77	77	77	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	77.15	Mar	77.25
Dec	77	77	77	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	77.15	May	77.25
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78
May	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	May	78	Mar	78
Jun	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jun	78	May	78
Jul	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jul	78	Jul	78
Aug	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Aug	78	Oct	78
Sep	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Sep	78	Dec	78
Oct	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Oct	78	Jan	78
Nov	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Nov	78	Mar	78
Dec	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Dec	78	May	78
Jan	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Jan	78	Jul	78
Feb	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Feb	78	Oct	78
Mar	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Mar	78	Dec	78
Apr	78	78	78	W 1500 Int	16	16	+ 0.55	Apr	78	Jan	78



MPUS  
resh growth

# The great partnership passes away

In 1998, Goldman Sachs went from strength to strength, earning more than a billion dollars in each of the first two quarters. Only 24 months after rejecting the notion of becoming a public company, the landscape — the firm's fortunes, the markets, and its competitors — had changed entirely. In December 1997, Jon Corzine (senior partner) had publicly stated that the majority of partners wanted the firm to remain private and that the issue of a public offering would not, he believed, be on the agenda in 1998. But the rampant bull market, which saw the Dow rise from 7,400 to 9,200 during the spring and continued to increase the valuations given to investment banks, as well as rapid consolidation in the securities industry, contributed to the firm's decision to reconsider its private status in a project aptly named Echo.

From 1995 to 1997, Goldman Sachs had watched Morgan Stanley merge with retail-based Dean Witter; Salomon Brothers combine forces with Smith Barney and Citibank; Union Bank of Switzerland join with Swiss Bank Corporation; and Bankers Trust purchase niche mergers and acquisition expert Alex Brown.

But perhaps the biggest threat to the firm's continuing existence as a private independent investment bank came not from these mergers but from Merrill Lynch's purchase of the massive Mercury Asset Management. Goldman Sachs may or may not have wanted to buy Mercury, but it probably did not have the option to do so. As a private company, with no stock, it would have been extremely difficult for the firm to spend the more than \$5 billion Merrill Lynch paid for the British fund manager. Early in 1998 Goldman Sachs had considered purchasing a stake in Garantia, the premier Brazilian investment bank, but the deal fell through. As other opportunities like this arose in asset management or bargains cropped up in the battered Asian economies, the firm was hamstrung without public shares to use as an acquisition currency. Some of the financial opportunities, as in the case of Merrill Lynch taking over bankrupt Yamaichi Securities or Salomon Brothers's investment in Nikko Securities at a time when the value of Japanese assets was depressed, would be short-lived, depending as they did on economic conditions that might soon change. The partners needed to act decisively and quickly if they were to capitalise on this window of opportunity.

"Structure follows strategy" was the watchword of the firm's newest committee, established in March as a sub-committee of the operating committee. Hank Paulson (vice-chairman) led a group of eight department heads in a review of the firm's strategy. The strategy committee was charged with surveying the terrain for the next five to ten years, imagining the world of 2008 and determining what kind of institution Goldman Sachs would be when it got there.

As they had done before the 1996 meeting, the partnership and operating committees held a joint meeting in New York in May to hear the strategy committee's report. This was a very different meeting than the one that had taken place two years earlier. And although most of the faces in the room were the same, the outcome would be entirely different.

At this two-day meeting the strategy committee laid before the most senior partners a plan

for vigorous expansion. The report rejected the notion of Goldman Sachs joining the ranks of banking behemoths. The firm would not rush out and combine forces with Chase Manhattan or JP Morgan, as had often been speculated. Goldman Sachs did not need to be a supermarket of financial services — the opportunities in its existing client and proprietary businesses were deemed more than ample for the firm to grow.

Goldman Sachs would continue down the path it had been on, albeit at a much faster pace. The firm had ambitious plans for expansion. Over the next five years the firm planned to double the number of people working in its client-serving business, which, it believed, would more than double the amount of revenue it earned. Building the firm's asset management through organic growth or small purchases, which is what the firm had done to date, was rejected in favour of much more aggressive acquisitions, particularly in Europe and Japan.

Many of the important strategic arguments — the possibility of making a large acquisition, defraying partners' risk, and facilitating rapid expansion — strongly suggested a sale. The lone hurdle was the cultural issue. One current partner feels that the issue boiled down to: "How do you walk in here the next day and look a guy in the face who has worked here for eight to ten years and tell him you've just taken away his opportunity to be a partner of the firm?"

Tension built as the fateful meeting approached. Corzine told all employees early in June that they needed to hang on a little longer until there was resolution and that the management was glad to be facing this decision in a period of strength without the backdrop of financial anxieties. He also announced that Paulson would be named co-chairman and co-CEO of the firm, a position equal to Corzine's. It was a return to the past, to a management formula that had worked so well for the firm before.

Going into the June 12 meeting many felt the decision could go either way. Everyone knew that in 1996, Corzine, Paulson, (Roy) Zuckerberg, and (Robert) Hurst had supported a sale, and many believed that they would again, yet there were widespread reports of opposition by the youngest members, (John) Thain and (John) Thornton. As in the two previous partnership-wide meetings on this subject, no one doubted that management would not proceed with a sale if it lacked the overwhelming support of the firm's owners. And because of the division within the executive committee, the threshold for support among the partners would need to be high — a simple majority would not suffice.

There was one crucial difference from the two earlier meetings. In 1986 the newest class of partners had only been on the job for six days and had almost no equity. In 1996, the equity of new 1994 partners was also relatively small, since 1995 was not a particularly strong year. But when the 1996 partners were asked to consider a public sale in 1998 they had already booked one record year and a second looked more than likely; therefore they would have much larger capital stakes to sell. Although it is always the most junior partners who are disadvantaged by a sale, in 1998, in part because of the inflated valua-



ON TUESDAY, Goldman Sachs will float on the New York Stock Exchange, so ending 130 years of partnership and turning hundreds of senior executives, including Hank Paulson, left, and Jon Corzine into multimillionaires. Twice before, in 1986 and 1996, Goldman came close to ending its partnership structure, but pulled back from the brink. In the first of two exclusive extracts from *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* by Lisa Endlich, the story of how Goldman finally decided to become a public company can be told.

tions the stock market had placed upon investment banks well into the summer months, for this group the economics would be compelling.

Goldman Sachs's 190 partners retreated on Friday, June 12, to the IBM Palisades executive conference centre north of New York City, where they cloistered themselves in a red brick and timber complex on top of a hill. Security was high, with extra plain clothes security guards on duty, and the entrances to the compound were closed. The location of the meeting had been kept secret, and many members of the press congregated at the Arrowwood conference centre, assuming the meeting would be there. Even with the extra security one journalist climbed over the fence and another tried to infiltrate the meeting using a fake ID card. As rain poured down outside, the partners faced what Paulson called a decision of "grave importance... one of the most important things the firm will ever do."

As had been the case in 1986 and 1996, the format of the two-day meeting included a presentation by the committee studying the firm's options, a 50-page folio of financial scenarios, and an open and spirited debate by the entire partnership. No one expected there to be a vote at this gathering; there was no formal proposal

and nothing to vote on. The partnership would signal its interest to the executive committee, and later, if it was deemed to be the will of the group, a specific proposal would be drawn up on which the partners would then vote.

Paulson spoke at the first session on Friday morning, and his words set the tone for the next two days. Paulson's goal was to make all partners in the room re-examine their position and rethink any assumptions they might have held before

addressed the group on a subject close to his heart — fairness. But first he felt a responsibility to read a letter he had received from John Weinberg and John Whitehead (former chiefs of Goldman Sachs) the previous afternoon. The two Johns were opposed to the partners' selling the firm. They believed strongly that "if it ain't broke don't fix it". Both were committed to the notion that the partnership was one of the things that had made the firm great and that it would be a mistake to tamper with it. Corzine had spoken to Weinberg, who had assured his successor that he would support wholeheartedly whatever decision the partners made. Those who heard Corzine speak rose remarks by reminding those assembled that Weinberg as well as other former Goldman chairmen, Robert E. Rubin, and Stephen Friedman had each, along with their management committees, at some point recommended that the firm go public. Corzine, who had been a member of each of those management committees, had supported the proposal each time and, without strongly advocating it now, supported it again.

By mid-morning on Saturday the leadership was done talking, and it was time to hear from the partnership. What followed was an impassioned debate, but nothing like the emotional response that had poured out in 1986. As had been the case in 1986 and 1996 the floor was opened for discussion and more than 100 partners stated their point of view. A discussion began in which the arguments, many of them eloquently framed, emerged in sharp relief. Each speaker emphasised his or her support for the outcome, whatever it might be, and after each speaker was finished there was a round of applause from the floor.

Goldman Sachs would never let a client have the capital structure the firm itself had, some partners argued. A global busi-

ness hoping to expand to more than 20,000 employees cannot rest on a capital base that has no permanence. In a risky cyclical business it makes no sense to expose the resources of a handful of people to the whims of the world's capital markets.

Those for and against felt that they had the issue of strategy on their side. The firm would not be able to make a large acquisition without stock, and without this ability it might be relegated to being a niche player, unable to compete for all of the top business.

The discussion, which was expected to end before lunch, went on until 2pm, with people going out to get food and returning to eat at their desks.

After the long open session each partner was asked to fill out an anonymous written questionnaire for submission to the executive committee asking which ownership format they preferred and why.

On Saturday afternoon at about 2:30 the meeting adjourned and the partners left the conference centre, some driving back to the city, some to the airport. They did not know what would happen next: the fate of the firm had been left in the hands of six men of differing opinions. There had been the overwhelming sense that a majority of those present supported the idea of selling the firm, but Corzine and Paulson had made it clear that a supermajority would be needed. The executive committee cloistered itself for the next 30 hours to review, reflect, and decide. They emerged from this meeting united, and announced to the world their belief that Goldman Sachs should sell a portion of the firm to the investing public. A detailed proposal would be drawn up for the partnership to vote on during the summer, and anticipating that there would be more than sufficient support from the partnership and hostile markets, the firm would have an initial public offering in the autumn of 1998.

Some were cynical about the firm's decision to go public. The same question asked two years earlier had yielded a resounding no. Partners talked endlessly about the value of partnership, but at the height of the greatest bull market in history they were willing to relinquish control of their firm. Others saw it differently, viewing the firm's continuing status as a private partnership as the result of inertia and nostalgia. A partnership, they believed, is an obsolete structure with which to operate a vastly expanding, global, risk-taking enterprise. The money, which they intended to spread to every employee of the firm, would only strengthen the organisation. Those who supported the change pointed out that far from being greedy, Goldman Sachs's leaders pushed for this move in 1996, when the firm would have sold

for not substantially more than its book value.

Some limited partners wondered about the wisdom of a public sale. Among those retired from the firm are partners who, when faced with the opportunity to sell as general partners, declined on the grounds that the partnership made the firm great. One limited partner went so far as to say: "A lot of us think there's a big danger here that you could kill a goose that, over the years, had laid an awful lot of golden eggs. Why in God's name would you want to tamper with something that has worked so well?" On the other side, many limited partners had voted to sell the firm in 1986, or supported the idea in 1996, but from the standpoint of personal gain their timing had not been perfect. Publicly, Friedman characterised the move as a way to husband scarce partnership capital. "We're in the longest stock market boom and the biggest one in history," he said with some prescience. "What you do is you store up your seed corn in the event of a bad period. One hears the rumour there used to be a time when stock markets went down."

On the day following the firm's announcement, its co-CEOs were on the defensive. A barrage of press speculation on how rich they and their partners would become had, they felt, missed the point of the sale. "Contrary to what you might read, we are not doing this because of the money. This is not about cashing out," Corzine asserted vehemently. "We intend to be the pre-eminent, independent global investment bank. We are going to be tough, and we will have the capital to compete." Paulson emphasised that the firm would not merge with a big bank or retail operation. The firm would use the capital provided by a public offering to do more of what it already did well, as a vehicle for growth.

Some of the post mortems mourned the passing of the last great Wall Street partnership, decrying the end of an era. Yet the importance of this transition, while historically interesting, is minimal to the industry. Did it matter that the industry leader was a private partnership able to conduct its business without focusing on the short term and the smooth flow of recurring earnings that stock markets applaud? Probably not. Goldman Sachs had slowly but surely been readying itself to become a public company. Now that the time for change had arrived, the transformation could be smoother and simpler than at any time in the firm's history. *Goldman Sachs: The Culture of Success* is published by Little Brown, price £20

## TOMORROW Goldman's role in the rise and fall of Robert Maxwell

the meeting. Partners remember that he made both cases, for going public and for staying private, in an exaggerated manner, causing everyone to consider the repercussions of their viewpoints.

In the evening, the partners met for a barbecue and what was billed as an entirely social evening. The atmosphere was a little like that in a college dormitory, as many partners watched the NBA playoffs on TV, while others milled in and out of game rooms and congregated in small groups in hallways and on stairs to discuss the burning issue of the moment. On Saturday morning Corzine

sees away and think deep strategic thoughts. Or something like that.

SOME excuses you simply cannot make up. The West Anglia Great Northern rail line, from King's Cross to Peterborough, has an excellent performance record. However, under "events outside our control" the operator this month admitted to "Nude trespassers on the line."

## Mutual aid

THE Yorkshire Building Society has dug the Bradford & Bingley out of a hole by agreeing to sponsor the Building Societies Association annual conference next month. The B&B had promised the money, but this week's surprise vote for conversion means that I doubt anyone from there will dare to show their face in Harrogate. But the money was still due until the Yorkshire decided to step in. Derek Roberts, chairman, says the only problem is filling the extra table of ten at the BSA dinner. Don't be discouraged. Harrogate in May sounds fine to me.

MARTIN WALLER  
city.diary@the-times.co.uk

## Trust fund

I HAD the impression that the merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust was taking ages. But it seems the deal is advancing too fast for Bankers Trust, which has to make extra payouts to staff who will not be retained in order to comply with EU law.

The requirement is that everyone involved must be interviewed to assess if there is a post for them in the merged firm. Unfortunately, there is

not enough time to see individually all 2,500 Bankers Trust staff in the City and the other 1,000-odd in Edinburgh, and anyway, it is already pretty clear who is not wanted on the voyage, so to speak.

Some dealers are on contracts that can be terminated at a month's notice, on either side — but only if they are "interviewed" first. The bank has checked with Brussels, and the way around this is to pay them a minimum of three months' money, whether or not they have jobs to go to elsewhere.

TRULY bizarre scenes at the Institute of Directors' annual convention. The organisers, in an effort to entertain proceedings, had crafted an interlude in which children acted out little scenes giving their views on the way business operates.

Enter Mr Sock. The impromptu star of the Albert Hall was perched on the shoulder of one of the young narrators to give prompts and a sort of mime version of what was going on. Mr Sock, however,



was just that, a hand in a sock, and was understandably limited to waves and other such simple gestures. None of which made a lot of sense or were much appreciated by an increasingly embarrassed audience. One senses that like Peter Mandelson, speaker at last year's convention, Mr Sock will not be asked back.

## Prize bore

THOSE surveys of which brokers and merchant banks are most popular with the fund managers are becoming about as exciting and unpredictable



"They've found a pile of evidence"

## How many telecoms managers does it take to

## [change] your mind?

When telecoms managers recently voted Energis No.1 for quality of service, it was a real commendation from the people who really matter. Not a claim, not a promise, but proof that we are committed to delivering quality of service to our customers — day in, day out.

And our commitment to service doesn't stop there. Our internet company, Planet Online, has been named as the top business ISP, while our national network has consistently been rated as the most reliable."

Energis is the only national telecoms provider to dedicate its all-round expertise solely to business. So, whether voice, data or e-commerce, isn't it time you thought about changing to us?

To find out more, visit the Energis website or call us now on 0800 316 0613.

The 1999 TMA Customer Award for Quality 1999  
— Your Business 50\* — B2B 1999  
— CBI results

1,750 TMA  
members  
can't be  
wrong

## ENERGIS

voice+dataforbusiness

www.energis.co.uk



## THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS' ANNUAL CONVENTION

## Young warns of US trade war

## TRADE

A NEW trade crisis is looming between the UK and the US following the banana wars, Lord Young of Graffham, President of the Institute of Directors, said yesterday.

Lord Young told the 2,500 delegates at the IoD's annual convention that tempers would flare again between the two countries over Europe's decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment and increasing worries over GM foods. He said: "We might see this as a health risk but Washington will see this as a pure protection. We are turning Europe into a Fortress Europe for Food."

His comments follow the World Trade Organisation's backing for US penalties imposed on some European goods, such as bananas, candles and toiletries in retaliation for Europe's imports of Caribbean bananas.

Lord Young gave warning that trade was being ignored as world leaders tackled the crisis in the Balkans. "It would be ironic if there were to be an even bigger falling out of the partners of Nato that pro-



Lord Young of Graffham said tempers would flare over the decision to ban the import of US beef because of fears over the effects of hormone treatment

duced the next crisis, the one that would overshadow even the tragedy of Kosovo."

Philip Lader, the US Ambassador to the UK, admitted that there were differences between

the two countries. Mr Lader, who was also at the IoD, said: "Given the magnitude of trade relations between the UK and the US it is not surprising that occasionally there will be dif-

ferences of opinion. But I hope that we can put disputes in the context of otherwise successful US/EU trade relations."

Mr Lader was last month summoned to see Stephen By-

ers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, over the banana issue. Mr Byers told him that the US's behaviour was completely unacceptable. Yesterday Mr Lader said that

after earnest negotiations, the disputes between the two countries could eventually be seen as "irritations". He said he was trying to "lower the decibel level" over the trade rows.

## New interest rates for Halifax customers.

The Halifax announces new interest rates for savings customers.

## UK rates

Effective from 1st May 1999.

Rates payable to Halifax non-resident and non-personal savers are advertised separately.

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/05/99		
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	NET p.a. %
<b>HALIFAX INSTANT SAVER</b>					
£500+	4.75	4.75	4.30	4.50	3.60
£100+	1.00	1.00	1.80	1.00	0.80
<b>HALIFAX PREMIUM SAVINGS DIRECT</b>					
£100,000+	5.75	5.75	5.50	5.50	4.40
£40,000+	5.50	5.50	5.35	5.35	4.28
£20,000+	5.40	5.40	5.20	5.20	4.16
£10,000+	5.30	5.30	5.10	5.10	4.08
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£100,000+	5.75	5.60	5.50	5.37	4.30
£20,000+	5.60	5.46	5.35	5.22	4.18
£10,000+	5.40	5.27	5.20	5.08	4.06
£5,000+	5.30	5.18	5.10	4.98	3.98
<b>90 DAY FLEXI</b>					
£100,000+	5.20	5.20	5.00	5.00	4.00
£50,000+	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.70	3.76
£25,000+	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.35	3.48
£10,000+	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.15	3.32
£5,000+	3.55	3.55	3.45	3.45	2.76
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£100,000+	5.20	5.08	5.00	4.89	3.91
£20,000+	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.60	3.68
£10,000+	4.45	4.36	4.35	4.27	3.42
£5,000+	4.25	4.17	4.15	4.07	3.26
£2,500+	3.55	3.49	3.45	3.40	2.72
<b>SOLID GOLD</b>					
£25,000+	3.35	3.35	3.10	3.10	2.48
£10,000+	3.15	3.15	2.90	2.90	2.32
£5,000+	2.95	2.95	2.70	2.70	2.16
£2,500+	2.60	2.60	2.35	2.35	1.88
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£25,000+	3.35	3.30	3.10	3.06	2.45
£10,000+	3.15	3.11	2.90	2.86	2.29
£5,000+	2.95	2.91	2.70	2.67	2.14
£2,500+	2.60	2.57	2.35	2.33	1.86
<b>HALIFAX GOLD</b>					
£10,000+	2.20	2.20	2.10	2.10	1.68
£5,000+	2.10	2.10	2.00	2.00	1.60
£2,500+	2.00	2.00	1.90	1.90	1.52
£1,000+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>ASSET RESERVE CHECKING ACCOUNT</b>					
£25,000+	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.00	3.20
£10,000+	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.75	3.00
£5,000+	3.65	3.65	3.45	3.45	2.72
£2,500+	2.90	2.90	2.70	2.70	2.16
£1,000+	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.80
£500+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>HALIFAX SAVINGS 415</b>					
£10,000+	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	3.04
<b>HALIFAX FLEXI ACCOUNT</b>					
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.04
£5,000+	2.30	2.30	2.05	2.05	1.64
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£10,000+	2.80	2.76	2.55	2.52	2.02
£5,000+	2.30	2.28	2.05	2.03	1.62
<b>CLOSED ISSUES</b>					
Over available to new customers					
Special Reserve Bond	5.20	5.20	5.00	5.00	4.00
Halifax Extra One Year Maturity Bond	5.45	5.45	5.20	5.20	4.16

## Bonus Accounts

Rates shown do not include bonus, except where stated.

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/05/99		
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	NET p.a. %
<b>BONUS GOLD</b>					
£100,000+	4.50	4.50	4.25	4.25	3.40
£25,000+	4.15	4.15	4.00	4.00	3.20
£10,000+	3.85	3.85	3.65	3.65	2.92
£5,000+	3.75	3.75	3.55	3.55	2.84
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>					
£100,000+	4.25	4.41	4.25	4.17	3.34
£25,000+	4.15	4.07	4.00	3.93	3.14
£10,000+	3.85	3.78	3.65	3.59	2.87
£5,000+	3.75	3.69	3.55	3.49	2.79
<b>HALIFAX SAVER</b>					
£10,000+	2.80	2.90	2.70	2.70	2.16
<b>CLOSED ISSUES</b>					
Over available to new customers					
Halifax TESSA 2 Variable Rate	5.30	5.30	5.05	5.05	4.00
Halifax TESSA 2	5.70	5.70	5.45	5.45	4.36
Halifax TESSA	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	4.00

## Halifax ISA Saver

Please note current interest rates for Halifax ISA Saver will be held until 30th June 1999. New rates which will apply from 1st July 1999 are shown below.

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/07/99		
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	NET p.a. %
<b>ISA SAVER</b>					
£10,000+	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25	5.00
£5,000+	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.75	4.50
£2,500+	4.80	4.80	4.75	4.75	3.75

POINTS TO NOTE: AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Interest will be paid net after the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form and made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. \*Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings customers who appear in our records as being under 21. If your savings account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21. \*Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA 2, Bonus Gold and Monthly Saver bonuses, are available from any Halifax branch.



Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 29th April 1999

## Boards are abdicating to false Messiahs

For most businesses, a board of directors is an unimaginable luxury. If owner-managers aspire to more than the legal minimum, it is usually to get expensive professional advice for the price of an occasional lunch. As the best or most ambitious expand, all sorts of new issues of accountability to an ever-widening circle of shareholders and outsiders build up. A collectively responsible board becomes ever more vital.

Aside from stock market flotation, there are few clear striding posts on the way to the institutional status of the Prudential, ICI or Glaxo Wellcome. That is why the role of the board, who should be on it, relations of managers and non-executives, or the chairman and the chief executive are subject to endless dispute and covered in acres of flannel that still cannot hide the gulf between theory and reality.

On his retirement from the chair, Sir Ronald Harpall revived a 30-year ICI tradition of railing against ignorant critics. Fund managers now make boards "tick boxes" to show they are complying with silly rules laid down by committees headed in turn by Sir Adrian Cadbury, Sir Richard Greenbury and, yes, Sir Ronald himself. Maybe the rules were bad. Perhaps they obscure other cultures that can be equally effective, though all must stand scrutiny.

The issue that dominated the original Cadbury committee was how to stop one person from having complete control of a company and running it into the ground. Names such as British & Commonwealth, Polly Peck and Maxwell Communications head a long list.

One obvious solution was to separate the roles of chairman and chief executive. Yet many top groups, including the oil majors, Anglo-Dutch Unilever and the old ICI itself, had a strong management cadre from which one was chosen to be executive chairman for a limited term.

At the other extreme, some of our dozier financial institutions had, until recently, a non-executive board filled with top strategy-setting City types ruling a chief general manager who had emerged the hard way by decades of effort. Changes of culture and the transition from an entrepreneur to a professional manager were perilous. In top companies, it is agreed, the board should set strategy, and management implement it. But a bizarre Anglo-

Saxon fashion has developed to try to recreate venturing beginnings by turning chief executives into Messianic boss figures.

To make things worse, non-executive directors then evolve from supportive advisers into Pharisaic judges eager to find any hint that a Messiah might be false. This may be what put off heart-murmuring Dick O'Neill, who was due to take over from Martin Taylor as chief executive of Barclays.

Mr Taylor had been more strategist than manager. Combining both roles is usually too much, as the codes acknowledge. Yesterday Keith Henry was fired as chief executive of National Power, seemingly because its strategy was in a mess. Had the board been properly run, its chairman, Sir John Collins, should have been the first to go. He should resign promptly or return his pay.

The entrepreneur manager in the mould of Lord Weinstock is a rarity in the UK. Even he needed supportive chairmen and a close management group. He also left

succession problems. So did Mike Blackburn, larger than life architect of the now ailing Halifax. Here the board has risked a complete change of culture. A new chief executive from insurance is teamed with a chairman who was not on the board, though he has clubland connections.

Sir Dennis Stevenson, who will ably chair two FTSE 100 companies, is the latest incarnation of that pathetic English invention, the star non-executive, trusted in the City to be put in charge of any company needing a financial makeover. The paucity of capable strategists is attested by the continuing prominence of ageing Young Turks of the 1960s Industrial Reorganisation Corporation and will be made worse by the demise of the London merchant bank.

They seem to achieve transitions more easily in collegiate Japan and more elegantly at shareholder-led BMW. If a figure like BP's Sir John Browne turns up, all the better. Big companies should be capable of being run by competent managers and chairmen with no pretensions to Messianic status.

Richard Handover, the unassuming second choice as chief executive at WH Smith, is a better model than Rand V Araskog, who ruled IFT as chairman, president and chief executive officer to prove he was in charge.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

## Get an Internet grip, says Gates

## TECHNOLOGY

BILL GATES, chairman of Microsoft, yesterday said that chief executives must get to grips with the Internet and digital technology rather than delegate such skills amid concern that the UK is lagging the US in the use of technology.

Mr Gates told the Institute of Directors that the US was ahead of other nations in electronic commerce and in adapting to technology because many start-up businesses had embraced it at an early stage, making it integral to their activities. He said that the greater risk-taking attitude among US businesses also helped company leaders to take up the full potential of technology.

However, he said that British business, although behind

US business, was ahead of most countries in exploiting technology.

The Microsoft founder said it was "imperative" that businesses needed to get technology top of their priorities because it was fast changing the way business operates. He said: "There is a real need for this to be not just something that junior people talk about. The management needs to get involved."

Mr Gates said that companies needed to obtain advice on how technology could be used in their sectors. Retailers' needs would be very different from those of banks.

## Grade criticises negative attitudes

## LEISURE INDUSTRY

MICHAEL GRADE, chief executive of First Leisure, yesterday attacked negative attitudes to the leisure industry "at all levels from national Government downwards".

Praising the industry for employing 2.5 million people and accounting for 10 per cent of GDP, Mr Grade said: "So do we make a song and dance about our nightclubs, or bowl the rest of the world over with our skills at creating state-of-the-art tennis centres? Don't be silly - this is Britain!"

Mr Grade went on to criticise "archaic planning regulations". He complained: "The fate of the leisure industry is

in the hands of legislators and regulators who don't know it exists, don't know its potential and therefore cannot understand its problems."

He launched a general attack on Britain's lack of appetite for innovation and new ideas in business. He said it was a "deep malaise which has for too long infected the British psyche".

REPORTS by Christine Buckley

## Harnessing the airwaves

It is usually only large media companies or maverick music enthusiasts who undertake the complex and expensive process of setting up a radio station. Technology is making it increasingly affordable and straightforward, however, for all kinds of businesses to set up temporary radio stations as part of their marketing strategies.

Companies that have used so-called "limited licence radio" include TGI Friday's, the restaurant chain, Lakeside, the Essex shopping centre, and The Rugby Evening Telegraph. Limited licence radio has also been used to promote events such as the Machine Tools and Technology Association's annual conference at Birmingham's NEC.

The process of bidding for a temporary licence - which gives the holder the right to broadcast for up to 28 days - then getting hold of the equipment needed to set up a station, is becoming simpler thanks to a

handful of tiny high-tech media companies that specialise in organising broadcasts. One such is Show FM.

Show FM approaches the Radio Authority (RA) on behalf of its clients, and attempts to justify why they should be given licences. Although the cost of applying for a licence is tiny (a £200 application fee, plus about £80 a day), bidders must convince the RA that their proposals will be "broader choice".

Of course, companies have to step up their marketing activities to boost awareness of their temporary radio stations, although Show FM argues that simply putting a huge mobile radio studio in a crowded town centre often does the job.

But how effective are tempo-

rary radio stations, and how much do they cost? Research carried out by Mirror Group, the national and regional newspaper company, suggests that limited licence stations can achieve market share of up to 31 per cent, within a ten to 12-mile broadcast radius.

The total cost to the client, meanwhile, is typically between £800 and £1,500 per day, according to Show FM.

Given this relatively modest cost (it can cost up to £70,000 for one full-page advert in a national newspaper) - and the fact that much more airspace is about to be made available by the RA when digital radio arrives - means limited licence radio stations look likely to become an increasingly important

part of many companies' marketing strategies.

WORKERS will soon be able to reproduce their office desktops on their laptop or home PCs, thanks to software from Sun Microsystems. The software, called i-Planet, creates a "virtual workspace" by allowing workers to access their office software applications, calendars, personal files and e-mail, via the Internet.

LUCENT Technologies, the telecoms equipment manufacturer, has invented a device that can speed up the process of downloading files from the Internet, and ease Internet congestion. IPWorkX "detects and anticipates" Internet traffic volume, and is able to replicate Web pages without the viewer noticing anything but the lack of waiting time, Lucent says.

CHRIS AYRES

## DELL PCs FROM £799 DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY.

Free offers now when you order online.

www.dell.co.uk

OR CALL 0870 9675655

BE DIRECT  
DELL  
www.dell.co.uk

## How

Keith Daniels on the...  
...the...  
...the...

Running just to stand still

Court of Appeal

## Adverse I

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...

...the...  
...the...



# How far will tax tide rise?

Keith Daniels on the subtle forces that are exerting pressure for fiscal harmonisation throughout the EU

I recently addressed an audience of UK executives on the issues surrounding attempts to promote harmonisation of corporate taxation throughout Europe. To my surprise, although the topic was well understood, there was little appreciation of the degree to which UK tax law has already been influenced by the European dimension.

However, all those present sensed a hidden agenda to raise the burden of corporate taxes as high as practicable, and the focus moved to the rates of corporate tax charged throughout Europe. Rates, though, are not the key driver in this debate. The tax base to which they are applied is far more significant.

As Gordon Brown has shown more than once, the Government can raise additional tax revenue by careful manipulation of the tax base while cutting headline rates to attract favourable media coverage.

The top-down approach to European tax harmonisation, as tried in Germany, has seemed to run into the buffers and other issues have emerged to attract the media's attention. But is that the end of the matter? In my view, it is not. We have ceded part of our

sovereignty to Europe already. Principles of European law can be used to challenge domestic legislation, and UK courts are becoming more confident in giving rulings based on these principles. Harmonisation of the tax system by judicial interpretation will take a very long time, but the process will grind on and common interpretations will result.

The much-criticised proposed directive on a common system of applying withholding tax to interest has caused a stir, particularly in London's eurobond market. The essence of the directive is to counter evasion of personal tax due on undisclosed deposits held outside a tax authority's jurisdiction.

However, as originally drafted, the directive would potentially cause the eurobond market to seek a new home outside the EU, and thousands of jobs would be at risk. The national veto could be used to defeat the European Commission's proposals, but clearly it would be preferable if an accommodation could be reached that did not require use of such a blunt instrument. This attempt at harmonisation can be seen as an unwelcome visitor coming through the political front door. Yet there are other



Keith Daniels says court rulings may foster harmonisation

er more subtle harmonisation steps occurring at the political back door. A fundamental principle of international law is that one nation will not normally enforce collection of another's tax. Last year, the Commission recommended a directive amendment that, if adopted, might require the Inland Revenue prospectively to enforce collection of

say, Italian tax from a UK company operating in Italy — a big change in policy, with overtones in terms of harmonisation. The most significant difficulty for advocates of harmonisation is measuring the tax base. Quite apart from differing fiscal codes, there is not, as yet, a uniform measure of accounting profits throughout the EU. International ac-

counting standards are gaining in credibility, but it may be many years before universal recognition is secured. The information age will also have its effect. With modern electronic communications, does each company in a group require its own support services? Shared service centres are becoming a reality, with one company in a worldwide group providing, say, the accounts function to all group members. Differences between jurisdictions are thereby highlighted, which may influence investment decisions.

Tax competition, too, will play a part. Globally mobile investment will be drawn to jurisdictions with attractive fiscal regimes. Losers will complain of unfair competition, but eventually will play the same game or face damaging economic consequences. A common currency may be a precursor to further political, social and economic integration in Europe. The Big Bang approach to tax harmonisation is unlikely ever to succeed, but there are other agents. Court rulings, international accounting harmonisation and integration of big multinationals will all influence the pace and direction of change.

Just as an incoming tide, harmonisation will eventually reach a high water mark.

Keith Daniels is President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and a KPMG partner

## Judgment call on internal controls

There is but one problem with the Turnbull report. The appliance of judgment is considered old hat. This is unfortunate because the report depends, quite rightly, on the directors of listed companies reaching conclusions based on judgment and then communicating them to shareholders.

The whole area of internal controls has been fraught for the same reasons. While other areas of corporate governance have been sorted out so that a combined code now exists and is in force, the business of internal controls has had a convoluted journey.

It has gone through many permutations since it was advocated by the original Cadbury code. But now it has come home in a good and challenging form. Once it was suggested that only financial internal controls should be subject to corporate governance guidance. Now it has been widened to include everything in the burgeoning internal controls basket.

So directors will now have to have a review system embedded within the company enabling them to reach a view on everything from risk management and fraud to health and safety and environmental factors.

The report, named after its chairman, Nigel Turnbull, the Rank Group's finance director, states that "a company's system has as its principal aim the management of risks that are significant to the fulfilment of its business objectives with a view to safeguarding the company's assets and enhancing over time the value of shareholders' investment". In short, this stuff deals with the heart of a company. If this goes wrong then the company goes down. "Internal control," Turnbull will tell you, "takes governance right into the heart of business."

With the new guidance in place, this com-

pany will no longer be possible. The system will have to be embedded in the company. Boards of directors will have stringent responsibilities to assess the effectiveness of those systems and ensure that all weaknesses are being remedied.

They will have to monitor changes in the system and then disclose their findings in the annual report. There they will have to report that they have reviewed the system's effectiveness and disclose any material failings and what they have done, or intend doing, about them.

The intention is to avoid "boilerplate" corporate governance statements where a verbal formula clouds any understanding. Roger Davis, the head of professional affairs at PricewaterhouseCoopers, was the deputy chairman of the Turnbull committee. He is an enthusiast for companies explaining clearly, "If you pick up ICT's report, you find it is all boilerplate," he said. "The shareholders cannot make anything of it."

The report is a breakthrough. But the enthusiasm for judgment being exercised and its results being reported goes against the grain of the corporate world.

Company directors, and their auditors, both internal and external, have come to hate the idea of judgment these days. Partly, it is the problem of litigation. If you exercise judgment and things go wrong, then the lawyers will be set upon you.

This is not just typical within companies. As the senior partner of one of the largest firms put it to me last week, society in general is now much more intolerant of failure. People come under greater fire for failure. So they prefer to follow rules they can then either cite or blame, depending on the results of their actions. And that makes them safer should litigation follow.

Once upon a time, accountants used their judgment first and then, only secondly, checked to see if the chosen solution was in line with the existing rules. Now the process tends to be the other way round.

This makes the place of the Turnbull report a difficult one. The hope is that companies will see greater benefit in explaining things to stakeholders and increasing the worth and stability of their business by so doing.

If everyone instead pulls down the shutters and goes off to consult the lawyers then businesses are hardly likely to retain their dynamism. It is time for arguments on the issue of how judgment gives you a competitive edge.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Running just to stand still

ASK most senior people in the Big Five accountancy firms what worries them most and they tend to respond: "Recruiting more good people to keep growth running at high levels."

Certainly, the message seems to have hit home at KPMG. It has a poster campaign running that shows an athlete bursting through the winning tape in a heady mix of achievement and triumph. The message reads: "Know how it feels" and gives you the

telephone number of KPMG Consulting.

Commuters walking across London Bridge into the City have been puzzled that one of these massive posters has been stuck on the roof of a barge moored beside the bank of the Thames below.

This may seem to be an odd place to have a poster. Not so. It is placed directly opposite the glass walls that constitute London Bridge City, home of the consulting business of rival firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Bonding

HISTORY was made at the Scots ICA annual meeting. For the first time, an accountancy body has voted to allow non-accountants, lay people, on its council. People were casting around as to who might qualify for the two places that will be set aside for less numerate but interested people.

Representatives of consumers' bodies and the like were suggested. But the institute really doesn't have to look that far. Sean Connery is sub-

thumping his way around the hills and glens at the moment with a view to doing worrying things with a claymore to opposing politicians. The actor would certainly shake up a council meeting.

### Image problem

ACCOUNTANTS are famously those people who never own up to their real occupation at parties. But it may all be changing. There is another business which, by all accounts, reckons that its image

has plummeted as low as it can go. And that is information technology.

According to a report in *MicroScope* magazine, the chief executive of Cap Gemini in the UK has taken to the conference platform to thunder that "this industry is not just made up of techies and nerds but intelligent and educated people."

And Alan Stevens, chief executive of EDS in the UK, took the doom-laden task to its logical conclusion. "We have lost the battle with accountancy," he said. "That has a much better image than we do."

ROBERT BRUCE

## Court of Appeal

### Adverse possession claim fails

**Earnshaw and Others v Hartley**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Buxton and Sir Christopher Staughton [Judgment March 31]

A beneficiary of an unadministered estate who was in possession of land comprised in that estate for a period exceeding 12 years could not maintain a claim to adverse possession of the land for the purposes of section 3(1) of the Limitation Act 1980. Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to that Act applied to prevent a right of action from being treated as accruing during that time.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mrs Josephine Hartley, from the judgment on a preliminary issue in favour of the plaintiffs, Mrs Ann Earnshaw, Mrs Marion Robinson and Mrs Lucy Fielden, by Judge Barry sitting in Halifax County Court on January 11, 1999, that had the effect of defeating the defendant's claim to title by adverse possession to Heighly Top Farm, Cornholme, Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act provides: "Where any settled land or any land held on trust for sale is in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale (not being a person solely or absolutely entitled to the land or the proceeds), no right of action to recover the land shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as accruing during that possession to any person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale."

Mr Paul Creaner for Mrs Hart-

ley; Mr Barry Coulter for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the property had been acquired in 1948 by William Hyde Hartley who was married to Mary Hartley. They had a son and three daughters. Mr Hartley died intestate in 1965, his widow becoming the sole legal and beneficial owner of the farm. Thereafter the son, not then married, lived with his mother at the farm until her death in 1983. She also died intestate.

No grant of letters of administration to her estate was obtained at that stage. Thus, by virtue of section 9 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 her real and personal estate, including the farm, vested in the President of the Family Division on administration.

After Mary Hartley's death the son continued to live at the farm on his own. For present purposes it was to be assumed that he was in possession of it. In October 1995 the son married the defendant and made a will appointing her sole executrix and devising his estate to her absolutely. The son died in November 1998.

Thereafter the three daughters, the plaintiffs, sought the sale of the farm, maintaining that they were each entitled to a quarter of the net proceeds. The defendant maintained that the son and she successively had been in adverse possession of the farm since Mary Hartley's death in 1963, a period of more than 12 years, and that she, by succession and in her own right, had acquired a possessory title to it.

The daughters obtained a grant of letters of administration to their mother's estate and commenced the action seeking, inter

alia, an order for the sale of the farm.

The judge, hearing the issue of adverse possession as a preliminary issue, upheld the plaintiffs' case that the defendant's claim to adverse possession was on a footing defeated by paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act.

Mr Coulter argued that at all material times the farm was "in the possession of a person entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or in the proceeds of sale", namely the son, and the plaintiffs were other persons "entitled to a beneficial interest in the land or the proceeds of sale".

Mr Creaner's contrary argument was based on a literal interpretation of paragraph 9. He pointed out, correctly, that it was expressed to apply to settled land, which was not this case, or to land held on trust for sale.

He said that while the farm was vested in the President of the Family Division it was not held on trust for sale so that paragraph 9 could not, and did not apply during that period.

Further, it was argued, even if it could be said that the farm was held on trust for sale, neither the son nor any of the daughters had a beneficial interest in the proceeds of sale, but only a right to require the mother's estate to be duly administered and to receive a quarter share of the net estate on completion of the administration: see *Commissioner of Stamp Duties (Queensland) v Livingston* (1965) AC 694 and *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* [1970] Ch 271.

Being in this position, purpose and antecedents, Mr Creaner's interpretation of paragraph 9 was unacceptable. Its predecessor, un-

pressed in substantially the same terms, was in section 7(5) of the Limitation Act 1939.

The broad effect of those provisions could be said to have been the reintroduction of the doctrine of non-adverse possession among beneficial co-owners of land, allowance being made for the trust for sale which the Law of Property Act 1925 had made an inevitable feature of such ownership. Against that background it would be wrong to give paragraph 9 the literal interpretation which Mr Creaner put on it.

Although it was no doubt correct to say that the President of the Family Division, while the farm was vested in him, was not a trustee of it and that it was not held on trust for sale during that period, it was presumptively so held and it would be artificial for limitation purposes to distinguish between the state of affairs existing before and after the grant of administration.

It would be equally artificial for limitation purposes to hold that after the grant had caused the trust for sale, under section 33 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 to take effect, the son and the daughters did not have beneficial interests in the land.

As Mr Justice Buckley had said in *In re Leigh's Will Trusts* (at p282) a person absolutely entitled to a share of an unadministered estate did have an interest of a kind in the assets comprised in it. Such an interest was a sufficient interest for the purposes of paragraph 9.

Lord Justice Buxton gave a concurring judgment and Sir Christopher Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Waddington & Son, Burnley; Ursula Bagnall & Co, Totnes.

**Regina v Rolfe Screw and Rivet Co Ltd and Others**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Joffe and Mr Justice Auld [Judgment March 26]

Where a company and its directors were convicted of offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 the court should ensure that the financial penalties imposed were appropriate to mark the gravity of the case.

Although in a small company the directors might also be the shareholders so that any double punishment should be avoided, the penalties fixed should make clear that directors had a personal responsibility which could not be shielded off by the company.

In considering the period over which a financial penalty might be ordered to be payable, the court could properly fix a longer period in the case of a corporate defendant than in the case of an individual defendant.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, sitting at Birmingham, so held when considering an appeal against sentences by Rolfe Screw and Rivet Co Ltd following its pleas of guilty to offences under section 2(1) and 3(1) of the 1974 Act in respect of a serious incident of asbestos contamination in 1997 and 1998.

(i) hearing applications for leave to appeal against sentences by the company's directors, Bernard Rose and Philip Rose, who had pleaded guilty to the same offences.

The company was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay £30,000 costs. Judge Harris, QC, directed that £5,000 of the total be paid within the first 12 months, and the balance at the rate of £1,000 a month. The total period for payment, in the absence of accelerated payment, was six years and five months.

Mr Bernard Rose was fined £6,000, to be paid at £1,000 a month and was ordered to pay £2,000 costs. Mr Philip Rose was fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs.

The Court of Appeal refused their applications but reduced the sum payable by way of costs to £20,000 by the company.

Mr Kevin Hegarty for the company and the directors; Mr Mark Eades for the prosecution.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, referred to and gave unqualified support to the observations of Mr Justice Scott Baker in *R v F Howe & Sons (Engineering) Ltd* (The Times November 27, 1998; [1999] 2 All ER 249, 253 to 255) which amounted to a clear and correct statement of the principles which should guide the court in the present kind of case.

His Lordship turned to the question, raised squarely by the present appeal, of the period over which a fine might properly be ordered to be payable.

Mr Hegarty had submitted that the length contemplated here was well beyond the period which the court should sanction and that there was no distinction to be drawn for that purpose between a personal and a corporate defendant.

His Lordship said that it was plain from *R v Olliver* ([1989] 1 Cr App R (S) 10, 15) per Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, that the court there was at pains to avoid stipulating any period which should not be exceeded in a proper case.

Nonetheless with a personal defendant, with a fine hanging over him, there were arguments for keeping the period of that continuing punishment within bounds. Those arguments were much weaker, if indeed they applied at all, when one was considering a corporate defendant.

There was not the same sense of anxiety as was liable to afflict an individual, and it was acceptable on proper facts and in appropriate circumstances for a fine to be payable by a company over a substantially longer period than might be appropriate in the case of an individual.

His Lordship would, however, accept Mr Hegarty's further submission, that the court should avoid a risk of overlap. In a small company the directors were likely to be the shareholders and therefore the main losers if a severe sanction was imposed on the company. The court had to be alert to ensure that it was not in effect imposing double punishment.

On the other hand, it was important in many cases that fines should be imposed which made it quite clear that there was a personal responsibility on directors and that they could not simply shuffle off their responsibilities to the corporation of which they were directors.

The proper approach to a case of the present kind in principle was to pose two questions: 1 What financial penalty did the offence merit? 2 What financial penalty could a defendant, whether corporate or personal, reasonably be ordered to meet?

That second question inevitably raised the question of time.

Turning to the instant case the court concluded on the first question that the total penalty imposed on the company and the directors of £50,000, split as to £40,000 payable by the company and £10,000 by the directors, was, in the circumstances, appropriate recognition of the gravity of the offending.

On the second question, the company had submitted that its means were such that together with the costs order the total sum of £70,000 payable was grossly excessive and not an amount it could meet.

The court had been supplied with a quantity of accounting material, not all before the judge, which caused it to reconsider the time for payment.

As already indicated, a longer period for payment was acceptable in the case of a company than

would often be acceptable in that of an individual.

Also, it was not necessarily a more severe course to order a larger sum over a longer period than a smaller sum over a shorter period, since the former course might well give a company a greater opportunity to control its cash flow and survive difficult trading conditions.

If, despite a long period, the company had the means or chose to pay sooner than it needed, that was

a course open to it. In the result, the total period for payment was excessive and with some hesitation the court would reduce it; not by reducing the fine, but by reducing to some extent the sum of costs to be paid, from £30,000 to £20,000, thus shortening the overall period of payment from six years and five months to five years and seven months.

Solicitors: Charles Russell; Mr Stephen Swan, Southwark.



## Two of the best

The Open University's innovative Law Programme is the result of a partnership between the Open University and The College of Law. Unrivalled in their own fields, they have now joined forces so you can gain a Qualifying Law Degree and fit your study around your work or family commitments.

The College of Law has trained over half the solicitors in practice in England and Wales today, as well as offering training for barristers and is the country's largest provider of legal education. The Open University has built a peerless reputation for helping adults study successfully - based on the OU's unique method, supported open learning.

## The OU Law Programme offers four courses:

- Understanding Law • The Individual and the State
- Agreements, Rights and Responsibilities
- Ownership and Trusteeship: Rights and Responsibilities

Taken together, these courses cover all the Foundations of Legal Knowledge required to complete the academic stage of legal training. They can count towards a Qualifying Law Degree when taken in combination with other OU courses or with transfer of credit from previous studies. Alternatively, you can take any law course, out of interest.

We will provide you with a personal tutor, specially produced texts, video and audio materials and the chance to meet fellow students.

To find out more send now for a copy of the Open University Law Brochure, using the coupon below. Or call the OU hotline on

**The College of Law**

0870 900 0309.

Complete and send this coupon to:

The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

☐ Please send me information on the Law Programme.

☐ Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past.

Title.....Initials.....Surname.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Tel.....Date of Birth...../19.....

**OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 900 0309**

Website: <http://ouls.open.ac.uk/law>

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

## Appeal court must give reasons

**Regina v Snaresbrook Crown Court, Ex parte Input Management Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Blotfield [Judgment March 4]

On an appeal from a magistrates court, the crown court was obliged to provide proper reasons for its decision at the time of the decision or immediately after it, so that a defendant could know the reasons as soon as reasonably possible, see the nature of the criminality found to exist and properly to consider whether to appeal.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an application by Input Management Ltd for judicial review of the decision of Snaresbrook Crown Court (Judge Kallindas and Justices) on June 15, 1998 not to provide Input with proper reasons for their decision to reject its appeal against convictions before Redbridge Justices on November 4, 1997.

Input was convicted under section 33(1)(a) and (c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 of:

- failing to discharge its duty under section 3(1)(a) as an employer to ensure so far as reasonably practicable that persons outside its employment were not exposed to health and safety risks and
- failing to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of health and safety risks to persons outside its employment under section 3(1)(a) and (b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (SI 1992 No 2051).

Mr Kevin De Huan for the applicant; Mr David Travers for Redbridge London Borough Council; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said the applicant company engaged a contractor to install a one-way mirror ball at its nightclub. Following faulty installation, the ball fell, injuring two people and the applicant was convicted.

On appeal to the crown court the applicant argued that because it had done all that was reasonably practicable to ensure safe installation by employing reputable con-

tractors, it had complied with its duty under section 3(1) of the 1974 Act and had not breached its duty under the 1992 Regulations.

At the end of the hearing, the judge and justices retired and upon return the judge announced that the court found the allegations proved, was not proposing to give reasons, and that the sentence would be increased to a fine substantially greater than that given to the contractor.

Following requests by the applicant for reasons for the decision to dismiss the appeal and increase the fine, the judge merely said that the applicant ought to have checked that the ball was working properly. No proper reasons were given for the disparity of sentence that arose as a result between the contractor and the applicant, who could have been considered less culpable.

After leave to move for judicial review was granted, the judge sent a note signed by himself and prepared some time after the appeal to the Divisional Court. His Lordship said that the court could not have

regard to the note as it was not supported by affidavit nor signed by the other justices.

Even if it could, the applicant ought to have been provided with proper reasons at the time of the decision or immediately afterwards. His Lordship, adopting the reasoning of the court in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Nelson* (unreported, May 11, 1994), said that the applicant ought to have known as soon as could be reasonably ascertained what the reasons were in order that he could be assured and have no suspicion that there was no substantive rationalisation, see the nature of criminality found by the court to exist and properly consider whether to apply for a case to be stated.

The crown court failed to fulfill its obligation to give reasons within a reasonable time and what was done subsequently was not a satisfactory substitute. The case would be remitted to a differently constituted crown court.

Solicitors: Downs, Dorking; Mr Eddie Davie, Redbridge.







# Equities trade in narrow limits

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
615	45	Adolf Beck	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5
616	45	Adolf Beck	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5
617	45	Adolf Beck	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5
618	45	Adolf Beck	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5
619	45	Adolf Beck	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.5

## BANKS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
100	100	Bank of America	100	100	100	Bank of America	100	100
101	100	Bank of America	100	100	100	Bank of America	100	100
102	100	Bank of America	100	100	100	Bank of America	100	100
103	100	Bank of America	100	100	100	Bank of America	100	100
104	100	Bank of America	100	100	100	Bank of America	100	100

## BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
200	200	Guinness	200	200	200	Guinness	200	200
201	200	Guinness	200	200	200	Guinness	200	200
202	200	Guinness	200	200	200	Guinness	200	200
203	200	Guinness	200	200	200	Guinness	200	200
204	200	Guinness	200	200	200	Guinness	200	200

## BUILDING MATERIALS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
300	300	Timberland	300	300	300	Timberland	300	300
301	300	Timberland	300	300	300	Timberland	300	300
302	300	Timberland	300	300	300	Timberland	300	300
303	300	Timberland	300	300	300	Timberland	300	300
304	300	Timberland	300	300	300	Timberland	300	300

## CHEMICALS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
400	400	Shell	400	400	400	Shell	400	400
401	400	Shell	400	400	400	Shell	400	400
402	400	Shell	400	400	400	Shell	400	400
403	400	Shell	400	400	400	Shell	400	400
404	400	Shell	400	400	400	Shell	400	400

## CONSTRUCTION

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
500	500	Woolworth	500	500	500	Woolworth	500	500
501	500	Woolworth	500	500	500	Woolworth	500	500
502	500	Woolworth	500	500	500	Woolworth	500	500
503	500	Woolworth	500	500	500	Woolworth	500	500
504	500	Woolworth	500	500	500	Woolworth	500	500

## DISTRIBUTORS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
600	600	Woolworth	600	600	600	Woolworth	600	600
601	600	Woolworth	600	600	600	Woolworth	600	600
602	600	Woolworth	600	600	600	Woolworth	600	600
603	600	Woolworth	600	600	600	Woolworth	600	600
604	600	Woolworth	600	600	600	Woolworth	600	600

## ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
700	700	Woolworth	700	700	700	Woolworth	700	700
701	700	Woolworth	700	700	700	Woolworth	700	700
702	700	Woolworth	700	700	700	Woolworth	700	700
703	700	Woolworth	700	700	700	Woolworth	700	700
704	700	Woolworth	700	700	700	Woolworth	700	700

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
800	800	Woolworth	800	800	800	Woolworth	800	800
801	800	Woolworth	800	800	800	Woolworth	800	800
802	800	Woolworth	800	800	800	Woolworth	800	800
803	800	Woolworth	800	800	800	Woolworth	800	800
804	800	Woolworth	800	800	800	Woolworth	800	800

## ELECTRICITY

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
900	900	Woolworth	900	900	900	Woolworth	900	900
901	900	Woolworth	900	900	900	Woolworth	900	900
902	900	Woolworth	900	900	900	Woolworth	900	900
903	900	Woolworth	900	900	900	Woolworth	900	900
904	900	Woolworth	900	900	900	Woolworth	900	900

## ELECTRONIC &amp; ELECT

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1000	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000
1001	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000
1002	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000
1003	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000
1004	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000	1000	Woolworth	1000	1000

## ENGINEERING

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1100	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100
1101	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100
1102	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100
1103	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100
1104	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100	1100	Woolworth	1100	1100

## INSURANCE

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1200	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200
1201	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200
1202	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200
1203	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200
1204	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200	1200	Woolworth	1200	1200

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1300	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300
1301	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300
1302	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300
1303	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300
1304	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300	1300	Woolworth	1300	1300

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1400	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400
1401	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400
1402	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400
1403	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400
1404	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400	1400	Woolworth	1400	1400

## HEALTHCARE

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1500	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500
1501	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500
1502	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500
1503	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500
1504	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500	1500	Woolworth	1500	1500

## HOUSEHOLD GDS &amp; TEXT

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1600	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600
1601	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600
1602	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600
1603	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600
1604	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600	1600	Woolworth	1600	1600

## LEISURE &amp; HOTELS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1700	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700
1701	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700
1702	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700
1703	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700
1704	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700	1700	Woolworth	1700	1700

## MEDIA

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1800	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800
1801	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800
1802	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800
1803	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800
1804	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800	1800	Woolworth	1800	1800

## MINING

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
1900	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900
1901	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900
1902	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900
1903	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900
1904	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900	1900	Woolworth	1900	1900

## OIL &amp; GAS

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
2000	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000
2001	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000
2002	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000
2003	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000
2004	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000	2000	Woolworth	2000	2000

## OTHER FINANCIAL

1999	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
2100	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100
2101	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100
2102	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100
2103	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100
2104	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100	2100	Woolworth	2100	2100

Yet another charity trying to get as much as it can out of people.

Realising Potential

John Grooms works in partnership with disabled people to improve their quality of life, to maximise their freedom of choice, to respect their dignity at all times and to achieve a level of independence appropriate to their needs and desires.

For information on how you can make the difference call 0800 13 88 111.





## THEATRE

Blanchett  
excels in night  
of Plenty

PAGE 38

# THE TIMES ARTS

## DANCE

The man who  
makes the  
world turn

PAGE 39



**NEW MOVIES:** James Christopher sees future shock played for laughs in the amiably flesh-crawling *eXistenZ*

## Cronenberg's tricks of the light

David Cronenberg has never let good taste sabotage his futuristic movies. In his latest creation, *eXistenZ*, he shows no signs of relenting. As in his previous film, *Crash*, there are bits that make you wince. But here the horror is infinitely more playful and as fabulously baroque as anything he's dreamt up before. How much of *eXistenZ* is knowing comedy, and how much of it is just inadvertently corny, is the most enjoyable puzzle of this intriguing film.

The near future is crawling with mutant swamp life from poisoned rivers. Society is hooked on virtual-reality computer games. The corporations that make them are the multi-billion-dollar powerbrokers. The new superstars are the game designers. And the ultimate nerd is Jennifer Jason Leigh's grungy, reclusive Allegra Geller, the creator of *eXistenZ*, a game that taps so deeply into its users' fears and desires that it blurs the boundaries between reality and escapism. The rules of the game, indeed its very point, are defined by the players themselves: their morals, their principles, their psychological ticks. It's virtual existentialism.

When anti-game fanatics attempt to assassinate Leigh she is forced to flee in the company of Jude Law's marketing trainee, who has never played a computer game in his life. Leigh needs Law to enter the game with her to assess the damage done to her priceless computer pod, a sort of organic vibrating jelly. The problem is that the pod plugs straight into the nervous system via an umbilical cord and a socket in the spinal column. Getting one of these fitted to the less than enthusiastic Law—"I have this phobia about having my body penetrated"—is one of the funniest and squelchiest moments in the film. As in his last original script, *Video-drome* (1982), Cronenberg is mesmerised by the thought of fusing flesh and machine.

But the beauty of *eXistenZ* is that it is disturbingly close to reality. The game transports Law and Leigh to a sort of urban warehouse land where they are pursued by corporate spies and a bloodthirsty, extremist group of "realists" out to collect the \$5 million bounty on Leigh's head. The game engenders psychosis, and any



"Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist", but you can't hold Jude Law and Jennifer Jason Leigh responsible for the ultimate failure of *eXistenZ*

number of eye-popping twists. Law and Leigh become labourers on a production line where grubby workers hack up mutant frogs for biotech parts, and take their lunch breaks in a ghastly Chinese restaurant. Here Law, after chomping his way through the equivalent of Naked Lunch, uses the gristle and bone to construct a gun which he uses to murder the waiter with a well-aimed human molar. Ian Holm's crackpot German inventor and Willem Dafoe's gas station mechanic, flashing his familiar manic toothy grin, pop up like arcade cameos.

The real problem lies in identifying with the central characters, neither of whom

plugged into my nervous system. The moody, sexy Leigh is convincingly obsessive. Law is endearingly bemused. But in a film where absolutely everything is not as it seems, it is impossible to get involved. There are nags and teases that itch away long after the final credits have rolled, but Cronenberg the philosopher is really Cronenberg the illusionist. Neil Jordan's paranoid thriller, *In Dreams*, also plays with levels of reality. I have never seen a more stunning opening, in which police divers search for the victims of a serial killer in a town that lies like a grave at the bottom of a lake. But, despite feeding on a parent's worst nightmare

—the murder of an only child—Bruce Robinson's script fails to live up to this masterly visual suspense. Annette Bening plays a housewife whose dreams of orchards and frightened children turn out to be premonitions of a serial killer's intentions. But the fact that no one, including her husband (Aidan Quinn), believes her is the film's real nightmare. Her psychiatrist, Stephen Rea, sees madness where he should see clairvoyance. The camera charts Bening's disintegration with the slick, predatory feel of a stalker. It is an extraordinary performance by Bening, who has to lose her mind in the killer's imagination to prove her sanity. You can see the hysteria in her eyes and hear the fear plucking at her throat as her dreams are besieged by the killer's personality.

You can also see exactly what beguiled Jordan. Dream logic is one of the most powerful tools of suspense. Unfortunately it doesn't always chime with the prosaic business of a Hollywood plot. The moment Bening's fears are made flesh—the moment, in fact, that

Robert Downey Jr's madman steps into frame—is the moment Jordan's bubble of suspense is popped. The magic evaporates. The horror turns to schlock. What's hinted at but never explored is why Bening should be the conduit for Downey's diseased thoughts. Therein lies the better film.

Robert Downey Jr's madman steps into frame—is the moment Jordan's bubble of suspense is popped. The magic evaporates. The horror turns to schlock. What's hinted at but never explored is why Bening should be the conduit for Downey's diseased thoughts. Therein lies the better film.

shattered as he crashes into shop windows, looks blankly at faces and freaks out at parties. It's a powerful performance, full of penitence and frustration. Understandably, the director, Irwin Winkler, is far keener on exploring Kilmer's dislocation than massaging the tedious love interest. Needless to say, so is Kilmer. Sorvino's thankless task is to pick up the pieces and act confused. The result is a romance that is horribly lopsided and underhand of more interest to medical students than lovers.

Somewhat I can't see Germaine Greer or Andrea Dworkin breaking into a muck sweat over Marshall Herskovitz's feminist romp set in 16th-century Venice. The *Honest Courtesan* is such a frothy package it dissolves almost as soon as it reaches the screen.

Frustrated in her love for Rufus Sewell's roaring aristocrat, Catherine McCormack's low-born poet sets about carving her glamorous emancipation in Italy's glossiest brothel, the Venetian Court. Under the expert tutelage of her mother (Jacqueline Bisset), McCormack's lusty virgin is primed and briefed like James Bond. "Courtesans are the most educated women in the world," instructs the unflappable Bisset. "They can seduce a man at 20 paces with their mind." Hmm. Her great cleavage helps.

Having learnt how to devour bananas as if they were the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate bar in the world, McCor-

mack beds a procession of drooling senators and fat bishops, and even spansks the French King into submission. To spice up the grand romance, Sewell is sent packing to Cyprus to fight a war, the Plague promptly arrives and kills 56,000 people, and the Inquisition bowls into town. There's clearly something here for everyone.

Paul Morrison's *Solomon & Gaenor* is a sharp antidote to the above frippery. In a Welsh mining town, circa 1911, an illicit romance is meticulously hatched between a young Jewish immigrant (Joan Gruffudd) and prim local girl (Nia Roberts). They are both poor as peanuts. He sells cloth for his stern parents. She fills tin baths for her Protestant coalmining father and her bruise brother, the wonderfully named Crad (Mark Lewis Jones). Snatched kisses lead to passion in the hayloft. But Solomon's refusal to reveal his Jewish identity—he calls himself Sam and won't introduce Roberts to his parents—puts him in a morally intolerable position. The stakes couldn't be higher, what with strikes, pit closures and the suspicious

**eXistenZ**  
Warner Village  
West End, 15, 92 mins  
Futuristic horror from David Cronenberg

**In Dreams**  
Empire, 18, 100 mins  
Neil Jordan's nightmare thriller

**At First Sight**  
Plaza, 12, 129 mins  
Val Kilmer as blind beefcake

**The Honest Courtesan**  
Virgin Haymarket  
15, 111 mins  
Soppy Venetian romance

**Solomon & Gaenor**  
Screen-on-the-Hill  
15, 104 mins  
Love among the coalmines

**The Waterboy**  
Odeon West End  
12, 90 mins  
College freak makes good

**Knock Off**  
Virgin Trocadero  
18, 91 mins  
Rip-off

Crad nursing fists the size of jack-hammers. The dung inevitably hits the fan. There are humiliations, batterings, heartache and raging blizzards to be negotiated. Thomas Hardy would be hard-pushed to pen a more angst-ridden melodrama. But, despite the final excesses, the romance holds firm around an enchanting performance by Roberts's mousey temptress, whose emotions ring as true as her grim surroundings.

There is nothing enchanting about Frank Coraci's film. The *Waterboy, a college football team from "Rebardsville, Louisiana" ends a losing streak when the simple-minded weed who dishes out the water turns into a nuclear-charged demolition man. Adam Sandler plays the 31-year-old incompetent routinely humiliated by cross-eyed team-mates. Even respectable old ladies could be forgiven for giving him a casual kicking. Fuelled by grudges and bent out of shape by his mother (Kathy Bates, reprising for the umpteenth time all the perverted charms of her *Misery* character), Sandler becomes the hero of the Southern misfits.*

Despite the nonsense it is surprisingly full of gut laughs. Henry Winkler is wonderful as the depressed coach, terminally on the point of tears, but Sandler has neither the class nor wit to clone Tom Hanks's similarly challenged ingenue in *Forrest Gump*.

Even hardcore Van Damme fans will wince at his latest stunt feat. *Knock Off* is a numbing medley of kung fu fights, sadistic Russians and double-dealing with CIA agents. Jackie Chan has made an artform out of this kind of film. Van Damme makes a pig's ear out of it.

★★★★★ Celia Duncan, COMPANY

"HUGELY ENTERTAINING"  
Henry Fitzherbert, SUNDAY EXPRESS

"PERFECTION" "HILARIOUS"  
James Christopher, THE TIMES FILM REVIEW

"WONDERFUL" "SPARKLING"  
Baz Bamigboye, DAILY MAIL ESSENTIALS

"DON'T MISS"  
Celia Duncan, COMPANY

Cate Blanchett  
Minnie Driver  
Rupert Everett  
Julianne Moore  
Jeremy Northam



an ideal husband  
He just doesn't know it yet

NOW SHOWING  
ODEON  
ABC  
UCI  
WHITELYS  
CHelsea-CINEMA  
STARTS TOMORROW  
ENDS TODAY  
AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## Hurt's so good

WHEN actresses reach a certain age, they often complain that the good parts are not being written for them any more. If only they were vocalists, they could turn to the bitter-sweet creations of Amanda McBroom.

Not that the West Coast singer-songwriter's work can be defined purely by age or gender. What she captures so adroitly is the wishfulness of dreams deferred, ambitions unfulfilled, marriages sinking into what her song *Dance* terms "comfortable despair". Songs as haunting and ethereal as *Ship in a Bottle* pin down stray emotions as precisely as an Anne Tyler novel.

This might sound like an excuse to wallow in Californian self-pity. It is certainly true that McBroom's heart-on-sleeve style can come as a shock to the British system. But she balances the pathos and anguish with humour. Standards old and new are carefully filtered into the mix. Segues abound, and McBroom and her flamboyant accompanist Joel Silberman self-consciously stitched together the verse of *Bewitched*, *Bothered and Bewildered* and the refrain of *My Funny Valentine*. She and the worldly Lorenz Hart made a good combination nonetheless.

Jacques Brel provides another source of inspiration, notably in the audacious and de-

mented waltz that is *Carousel*. Inexorably gathering speed, until the words teeter on the edge of glibberish, the song brought all of McBroom's acting skills to bear.

A more sedate waltz tempo underpins *Erol Flynn*, the poignant vignette inspired by her father, the Hollywood actor David Bruce. Barbara Cook has made this song her own: McBroom stole it back. Where most cabaret singers veer towards the conversational, she favours a more theatrical stance, abruptly leaping into the upper register to add emphasis.

Earlier, she had signalled another telling change of gear when she dipped into her high school past to treat Carole King's *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* as a glowing ballad stripped of artifice. Silberman, who has just guided classical pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet through an album of Ellington melodies, enjoyed his solo moment in the spotlight with an uptown treatment of *Don't Get Around Much Any More*. Very debonair, very Dukish.

CLIVE DAVIS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm

LINKS

DETAILS: Details of new and old film releases can be found on <http://www.times.co.uk>

TELEVISION: Film 90 with Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday, 11.10pm

Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday, 9pm</



# What's she got to smile about?

Rather more, it seems, than her character in the forthcoming comedy *Notting Hill*, or so Julia Roberts tells Matt Wolf

In the new romantic comedy *Notting Hill*, Julia Roberts plays a hugely successful film star, an Oscar-winning actress whose shining smile is worth \$15 million a movie. In real life, Roberts, 31, has yet to win an Academy Award (although she has been nominated twice, for supporting actress for *Steel Dawn* in 1989 and the following year for her career-making role as the hooker in *Pretty Woman*). At the same time, her value has gone up to a reported \$17 million a picture for her forthcoming *Runaway Bride*, which reteams Roberts with her *Pretty Woman* co-star, Richard Gere, and its director, Garry Marshall.

Nonetheless, it is tempting to regard Anna Scott, her latest screen heroine, as some variation on Roberts herself. So it comes as a surprise not just to find that Roberts in the flesh comes across as considerably more articulate and self-possessed (and even more beautiful) than Anna, but also to hear the actress distance herself from her character: whatever *Notting Hill* may or may not be, its star says it is not to be taken as a convenient essay on art imitating the worries of life.

"Just because you share an occupation with someone doesn't mean you're the same person," says Roberts, still energetic at the end of a day of interviews in the city where she spent several months filming *Notting Hill* last spring. The screenwriter Richard Curtis, Roberts says, "wrote a very specific type of actress in a very specific situation who has very precise ideas and values: I had to just reconcile the differences between us and not to judge her choices, because I didn't always agree with them."

Some actresses might balk at speaking lines in which their character envisages a future when both looks and popularity have faded. ("I'll become a sad middle-aged woman who looks a bit like someone who was famous for a while," Anna tells the English dinner table cronies of her newfound paramour Hugh Grant.)

"I don't have those concerns at all," says Roberts. "But, again, we are different people. Anna is still unsure of her own worth, whether as an actor or as a person. What is written about her concerns her a lot

more than it would concern me: she's a lot more fragile." It may be, too, that after 13 years in the profession — most of them near the top of it — Roberts understands the workings of an industry that is increasingly fixated on youth and on, well, locating the next Julia Roberts. "I just know who I am and what I want and why I want it," she says. "As you become an adult, you gather information and life experiences which help to form the person you are and what you aspire to be."

Of Anna's frets, Roberts continues, "I don't have those concerns and I never have, although that's not to say that one day I may not

ered by my life and the choices that I make and part of the choice is what I do, and I find it freeing, not trapping."

The public, though, clearly prefers Roberts happy, flashing that now-celebrated grin that her *Stepmom* co-star, Susan Sarandon, has compared to "the sun coming out." But Roberts insists that she be allowed to pursue darker screen paths and involves her involvement in the unsuccessful *Mary Reilly* to make her point. With that film, Roberts recalls, "people were saying, 'Why is she so down?' But what on earth does Mary Reilly have to smile about: getting up at 4am and spit-shining shoes? Should I be singing a little song?"

In any case, the Roberts smile "is not a skill, it's a gift. If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents. If people are going to support me, or pretend to support me, my belief is that they must support my desire to be a good actor, and in order to be a good actor it is my obligation to my desire to try different things. If I did the same thing all the time, how quickly would people get bored? They would be like, 'She's smiling again; oh God, that smile.'"

**'I feel liberated and inspired by my life'**

wake up and feel some of the insecurity that she expresses." And not to forget, as Roberts points out, that the scene is constructed as a contest to see which dinner guest can be most self-deprecating.

Roberts acknowledges her own career ascent that long ago found her surpassing older brother Eric in the renown sweepstakes and has now positioned her as one of only a handful of actresses within striking distance of the \$20 million-a-movie (or more) earned by the likes of Nicolas Cage, John Travolta and Mel Gibson. (A third sibling is a stage actress based, like Roberts, in Manhattan.)

Has fame been a trap, as *Notting Hill* suggests it has for its main character? That notion, she says, "seems so powerful. I think there is an essence of truth to it but I don't feel trapped and I don't feel like anybody has the power but me, and that's not said as a challenge. I feel liberated and inspired and empow-

are next month Roberts gets serious again, playing the title role of a secretary who becomes embroiled in the biggest civil action suit ever in Steven Soderbergh's *Erin Brockovich*, a Universal film based on a true story. "The reason I do a movie is the same as it was ten years ago," she says. "I like it or I don't, period. I respond on some level which is all my own regardless of what seems to be public demand."

And what about the real question posed by *Notting Hill*: could a film star ever fall for a mere mortal, as Anna does for the travel bookshop owner, played by Grant? "Look, as a working actor one is far more likely to meet and spend one's greatest amount of time with other actors. But separate and apart from that, I don't believe we are what we do. I'm not actor-Julia; I'm Julia. If you are with the right person and you have that amazing well of communication and support, then anything is understandable."

● *Notting Hill* opens in London on May 21 and nationwide on May 28



"The smile is not a skill; it's a gift," Julia Roberts says. "If you want to appreciate somebody for that, then appreciate my parents"

## Possessed by low-tech chills

### THE EXORCIST

Warner, 18, 1993  
I THINK the country's moral fabric can survive the rental release of this horror show, long banned on video. It's the tale, if you need reminding, of the battle for the soul of a possessed young girl (Linda Blair). A modern remake would go to town depicting the child's violence; director William Friedkin prefers bursts and snatches. And just look at the low-tech bile flying from the girl's mouth: it looks about as harmless as baby food. Blair, 14 at the time, writhes and scowls nicely, but the face that haunts is Jason Miller's, as the Jesuit priest with a faltering faith.

### I WANT YOU

PolyGram, 18, 1998  
IN A depressed seaside town Rachel Weisz's hairdresser suffers the loving gazes of a silent 14-year-old refugee and the un-

wanted attentions of her former boyfriend, now on parole after a murder conviction (Alessandro Nivola). This latest film from hot British director Michael Winterbottom, inspired by the song by Elvis Costello, is his most European yet in style, dazzlingly shot on Hastings locations, with surreal atmosphere galore. Available to rent.

### LES MISERABLES

Entertainment, 12, 1998  
VICTOR HUGO's huge novel turns up here in straight dramatic form, inevitably much abbreviated, directed by Bill August. No great artistic heights are scaled, but at least the story takes less time to watch than to read. Liam Neeson is disappointing as the former prisoner Valjean trying to shake off his past; Claire

Danes looks out of place as the girl raised as his own child; Uma Thurman suffers sweetly as the ill-fated Fantine; and Geoffrey Rush impresses as police inspector Javert, who won't let bygones be bygones. A rental release.

### SILENT SHAKESPEARE

BFI, 12  
HISTORIANS and Bard fan- ciers, rejoice. Here is a wonderful tape that dips into the National Film and Television Archive for seven silent stabs at filming Shakespeare, three from Britain, two apiece from America and Italy. Primitive? Of course. But you still gaze in awe at these fragments, featuring Herbert Beerbohm Tree as King John (filmed in 1899), an energetic Richard III from Frank Benson (shot on Stratford's stage in 1911), and the

Italian Ermate Novelli, most impressive as King Lear. Fine prints, considering the material's age; sensitive musical accompaniment.

■ **STILL CRAZY**  
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1998  
MILDLY amusing British comedy about the attempted comeback of Strange Fruit, a long-disbanded 1970s British rock band. Bill Nighy is the ego-inflated lead singer, Jimmy Nail strums a mean guitar, Stephen Rea jerks out chords on the keyboard, Timothy Spall bashes the drums, and Billy Connolly drives the bus. They are good enough company, and director Brian Gibson knows a thing or two about presenting music in films. If only everyone were not so tethered to the script's compendium of clichés. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

## CLASSICAL CDS: Ancient French music; new Danish; passionate Italian

### CHORAL

#### MACHAUT

Clerks' Group/Wickham  
Signum SIGCDO//  
\*\*\* £14.99  
WAR, plague and a schismatic papal court: this is the world of the 14th-century composer Guillaume de Machaut as presented by the Clerks' Group and Edward Wickham on this enticing disc, the first of a series of three to feature a particular medieval manuscript, and other music by one composer from that manuscript. So Machaut's motets are in- set here within a framework of anonymous Mass music associated with Avignon from the Ivrea Codex, the prime source for ars nova music. Much of it is recorded here for the first time: the Clerks' Group is already well-known for championing neglected Renaissance repertoire, and its cunning programming enriches its fresh performances, recorded in an airy church acoustic.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023498

The performers are alert to both the play and the passion within this music — as, for instance, a sensuous and intimate motet comes up against an exuberantly expanded Sanctus, or as a mischievously archaic ditty faces the public splendour of a post-Mass exhortation.

#### HILARY FINCH

### ORCHESTRAL

■ **RUDERS**  
Symphony No 2; Piano Concerto  
Hind/Danish National RSO/Schönwandt/Sternz  
Da Capo 9 224125 \*\*\* £14.99  
THE Danish composer Poul Ruders sprang to fame here in 1996, when his witty *Concerto in Pieces* was given at the Last Night of the Proms. The recent Second Symphony, which comes to London tomorrow (played by the Brunel Ensemble at St John's Smith Square), presents a very different face of Ruders — though not necessarily a more typical one.

Cast in a single movement lasting 28 minutes, it is hardly comfortable listening, but in Michael Schönwandt's reading makes a powerful statement about our troubled

times. Halfway through, urgent trumpet tattoos obtrude, followed by a long, disjointed horn theme. A background texture of ever-increasing complexity offers little respite, and insistent drums gradually make their presence felt. This is but a portent of the final relentless onslaught, underpinned by savage percussion. The Piano Concerto (soloist: Rolf Hind) is less oppressive, though textures are sparse in the extreme. Ruders's control of materials is masterly, however, and there is much to enjoy as well as admire in Markus Stenz's account.

#### BARRY MILLINGTON

### OPERA

■ **DONIZETTI**  
Mary Stuart  
Ploverright/Baker/Rendall/Opie/Tomlinson/ENO Orch/Mackerras  
Chandos CHAN 3017(2) (2 CDs) \*\*\* £19.99  
CHANDOS, zealous in the cause of opera in English, has acquired some of the recordings made during live performances at the Coliseum in the early 1980s. Few evenings were more glorious than Donizetti's *Mary Stuart*. Here

are Janet Baker and Rosalind Ploverright firing on all cylinders as the rival queens of Scotland and England.

Donizetti upset convention by making the soprano the villainess while assigning the soulful victim to the mezzo. Ploverright is full of fire as Elizabeth, breathing vengeance on all who flout her will. The dark tones in her voice as well as the chilling strength of the upper register show how right she was for the part. This may be Donizetti, but the role demands the qualities of a Verdi dramatic soprano.

Baker does not indulge in too much self-pity as Mary, stoic in the final act after giving as good as she gets at the famous, if fictitious, meeting between the two monarchs outside Chatsworth. It is a female-dominated work, but David Rendall and John Tomlinson seize their opportunities as rival courtiers. Charles Mackerras is the superb conductor: would that he had given us more Donizetti while at the Coliseum.

#### JOHN HIGGINS

★ Worth hearing  
★★ Worth considering  
\*\*\* Worth buying

## easyJet FLIGHTS FROM £34 RETURN



- 10 European cities to choose from
- Euro breaks: Nice £59 Athens £79 return
- UK breaker: £34 return from Scotland to London

Readers can buy flights to ten European cities from just £34 return with easyJet. The fares, listed, are only available on the net. You can travel between May 4 and July 15 (some dates and flights are excluded, see terms and conditions on the Website). Readers over 18 can buy return flights for up to four people with just one complete set of tokens. Simply collect ten differently numbered tokens, eight from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*. Tokens will appear every day until Sunday, May 9, 1999. A bonus token will appear in *The Sunday Times* on Sunday. Attach the tokens to the booking validation form which will appear in *The Times* on Saturday.

### HOW TO BOOK

- Log on to [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com). Click on to the *The Times* offer button and enter the password EASYEVERYTHING
- Only flights tagged PROMO FARES apply to this offer. If sold out, other flights tagged REG FARE will be offered automatically
- Departures must be from a UK airport
- Promotional flights available on a first-come first-served basis. Weekend flights sell out first, so have alternative dates
- easyJet is a ticketless airline



Keep a record of your confirmation number for check-in  
● Flights are non-refundable and non-transferable. Name and/or flight changes not permitted  
● You must be over 18 to book this offer.

### AT-A-GLANCE SPECIAL OFFER:FARES GUIDE

DEPART FROM	DESTINATION	TIMES RETURN FARE INC. TAXES
London Luton	Edinburgh	£34
London Luton	Glasgow	£34
London Luton	Aberdeen	£34
London Luton	Belfast	£34
Scotland/Ireland	London	£34
London Luton/Liverpool	Geneva	£39
London Luton/Liverpool	Amsterdam	£49
London Luton	Zurich	£49
London Luton	Nice	£59
London Luton	Athens	£79

Fares from Scotland and Belfast to London Luton are also £34 return. Full terms and conditions, plus one-way flights available, at [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)







## DANCE

Place in the limelight



John Ashford at The Place: "I don't think it's made a difference, but I've had a good time"

## Godfather of modern dance

The Place, a converted rifle and drill hall in Central London, has long been one of Britain's most important dance and choreographic centres. It was here, in 1969, that the arts philanthropist and Martha Graham devotee Robin Howard found a permanent home for his Contemporary Dance Trust. Howard's initiatives remain the energy source for most of British modern dance.

Nearly 20 years later, John Ashford received Howard's seal of approval when he was hired as director of The Place's intimate, 300-seat theatre. Today it is primarily thanks to Ashford that, as a performance venue, The Place has become a mecca for fans of both home-grown and global dance. A singularly savvy programmer, this dapper 54-year-old has carved out a niche for himself as the UK's godfather of new contemporary moves.

Ashford has instituted a handful of ambitious, annual themed seasons including *Re-Orient* (contemporary dance from the Asian Pacific, together with work by Asian-British artists), *Spring Loaded* (a three-month celebration of the diversity of British dance) and *Resolution* (a platform for shorter works by emerging artists from the UK and abroad, lasting seven weeks).

"The theatre's first job is to offer a platform to British work," Ashford maintains. "Yet when I arrived, I felt that as dance has an international currency there should be an international aspect to the programme. I had to find devices to invite that work. *The Turning World* was the vehicle."

The name is lifted from T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*: "At the still point of the turning world... there the dance is." Conceived in 1990, this annual season of international dance and dance-theatre was destined from the start to terminate in 1999. "It was always billed as a season 'dancing to the edge of a millennium'," Ashford says, "and then we'd stop and think."

A decade on, it's easy to map out just how far *The Turning World* has travelled. Think of it as a kind of multicultural passport, transporting London audiences to a panorama of new kinetic landscapes. Although performances are centred on The Place, additional and significant sites have been provided by the South Bank

The world is about to stop turning for John Ashford of The Place. Donald Hutera finds out why

Centre, Sadler's Wells and, this year, the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Working with programmers from those venues, Ashford has been instrumental in importing work by nearly a hundred artists from almost two dozen countries, including Japan, Tunisia and, this year, Brazil, which will send the Deborah Colker company, and Australia, which is

"It was my decision to end it. Ten years. That's all"

represented by Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre.

A majority of artists, including a sizeable number of repeat visitors, have hailed from Europe: Belgium's Wim Vandekeybus and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, Spain's Vicente Saez and, from Germany, Rudi Horta.

Ashford casts the Euro connection in a political light. "We've gone to the north and gotten Scandinavian work, south for Spanish and Portuguese work, and east to Slovenia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The geographical spread is very important to me. The more people there are who are knowledgeable about what happens in other European countries — whether through dance or by another means — the more we are likely to come to terms with Europe's history this century, and get on with playing our

proper part in it in the next."

Neatly, the conclusion of *The Turning World* coincides with a major refurbishment of The Place. The National Lottery, through the Arts Council of England, has awarded the complex just over £5 million for a revamp that will commence in June and be completed by late spring of 2001. The King's Cross Partnership has also given £750,000 towards the 25 per cent matching funding the project requires, leaving The Place to raise an additional £900,000. All this will translate into easier and more welcoming access, a new café and proper bar, new toilets, lifts and dressing rooms, and a block of state-of-the-art studios. The building work is unlikely directly to affect dance programming until next June, when the theatre space itself will undergo its facelift.

Ashford started out wanting to be a theatre director, and in the late Sixties worked with the likes of Caryl Churchill and David Hare. He was also founding theatre editor of *Time Out* magazine. But his interest grew in dance. "So I took two years off to research dance here and throughout the world, just using contacts I'd made in theatre. I didn't read about it, or study it. I just looked at it."

The passion Ashford developed for recognising and nurturing new talent is fuelled by The Place's several choreographic residency programmes and seasons like *The Turning World*, but Ashford's dedication reaches beyond that. "Some stuff you just have to be committed to through thick and thin," he explains. "There are one or two artists, like Slovenia's Izak Kovac, whose work we've supported all the way for reasons which are not only to do with the quality of that work."

He professes to have no regrets about *The Turning World's* imminent demise. "It was my decision. Ten years. That's all. During that decade much more international work has been presented in London. Perhaps when others saw that we could successfully attract audiences for work that was absolutely unknown, they felt more confident about taking the same kind of risks."

He pauses. "No, that's not true. I don't think it's made that much difference. But I've had a very good time."

● *The Turning World* runs from May 4 to June 12 (0171-357 0031)

حكاية من الراحل

## ARTS

## Bad news, badly done

BROADCASTING: Peter Barnard on the day the BBC got it terribly wrong when covering the violent death of one of its own

I met Jill Dando only twice and interviewed her only once, by telephone, for *The Times*. The interview was for a piece about local radio and I wanted to speak to someone of her stature who had started out in the make-the-news, read-the-news milieu that local radio was in her day and, to a large extent, remains now.

Dando was in some far-flung location, filming for BBC1's *Holiday* programme, when she got the message that I would like to speak to her. An arrangement was made that she would telephone me at 3pm one day. The call came no more than three minutes after that time. She began with a profuse apology for being "late".

Much has been said and written in the past few days about Dando's humility and lack of affectation and I think that my experience of her confirms both. She was also a person with a sense of proportion, so one must wonder what on earth she would have made of the coverage of her murder on the day that it happened.

Radio 5 Live was essential listening on Monday afternoon, but there were moments — too many moments — when some listeners must have echoed the feelings of a letter in *The*

*Times* yesterday from a reader who said that the "effusiveness of the BBC's coverage of the event was out of all proportion...". Yes, I am afraid it was.

Ian Payne's afternoon show on 5 Live bore the brunt. Let it be said right away that Payne and his producer were in an extremely difficult position, given that the story of the day concerned someone virtually every BBC broadcaster knew. It was understandable that such people would have their emotions on show.

There is, however, a requirement to respond to tough situations with tough decisions. Restraint is everything, hype must be ruthlessly expunged, exaggeration has no place. A story such as Dando's murder tells itself and should be allowed to do so. That did not happen on Monday, when we were treated to the worst excesses of the touchy-feely era.

The result was coverage that became embarrassing, save for the moment when Nick Ross, Dando's co-presenter on *Crimewatch UK* and an outstand-

ing broadcaster of consummate moderation, came on the line. The exchange began along these lines. Payne: "This is the worst day ever, isn't it?" Ross: "I wouldn't quite go that far..." I should think not.

On every BBC news bulletin that I heard or saw, Dando was referred to throughout as "Jill". This was unprecedented. It was also proof that the BBC had allowed its own relationship with Dando to corrupt between it and the story. The use of the first name on its own amounts to editorialising, for it puts the subject of the story in a category separate from all others. This was news for grown-ups being treated as if it were an item on the children's programme *Newsround*.

In the evening BBC1 ran a half-hour tribute to Dando, fronted by Desmond Lynam. It was dreadful, a throw-together collage transmitted in haste to be repented at leisure. Just when we needed Dando the three-dimensional person, we got more of the two-dimensional presenter we already knew. It

sold her short and it was unworthy of the BBC, which hardly ever puts out tribute programmes so soon after a death. Why did it happen this time?

My mind went back to the sudden, though natural, death of Brian Redhead a few years ago. An important story, but one that was seriously overcooked on the *Today* programme, which at times that morning sounded like an in-house network rather than a national broadcaster. The same impression was conveyed on Monday. It was, quite simply, too much.

I liked Dando, as a presenter and as a person. The enthusiasm with which she recalled, during that conversation with me, her training at Radio Devon demonstrated that there was a household name who was proud of her roots rather than (like some) trying to bury them beneath the luxuriant foliage of fame.

Dando was a good journalist and a warm presenter. Her murder was and remains both a tragedy and a major news story. But she was hardly a towering presence on the broadcasting landscape and she would have been the last person to claim any such status. Unfortunately Dando's sense of proportion was absent from the coverage of her own death by her own employers.

## Flawed airing of first draft

The second operatic offering in the City of London Sinfonia's "Greek Myths" tribute to Richard Strauss came in the form of the first version of *Ariadne*. It's not such a rarity as his wrong-headed but riveting reworking of *Idomeneo*: this marriage of Molière's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and the *Ariadne* chamber opera was fully and memorably staged at the Edinburgh Festival two years ago. In fact it is a perfectly valid alternative: sharper, more alienating, but near-impracticable in terms of personnel and budget.

Tuesday's version was semi-staged, with the halfhearted, hangdog routines for the *commedia* troupe making one wish it had been in purely concert form. The Molière was replaced with a genial narrator which was written and delivered by Nigel Douglas in splendid 18th-century costume.

He had some good jokes about new and old money.

## OPERA



much appreciated by an audience in which, as someone unkindly remarked, the braying classes were well represented. There was nothing on the subject of what the opera might be about — a pity — and neither the blind nor the deaf could have mistaken this elegant, soigné M Jourdain for a social climber.

One good reason for performing *Ariadne* is Strauss's witty incidental music for the play, but unfortunately the CLS was having an off-night — for too many Brits — and Richard Hickox gave little indication of why he wanted to conduct this piece: fast, unyielding tempos, a depressing, indeed incomprehensible absence of nuance, lack of concern for internal or external balance in this most fastidiously scored music. Things went a little better bashing through the purple passages in the opera, but not much.

So, thank heavens for the singers, led by Christine Brewer's magnificent *Ariadne*, sumptuous of tone, as delicate of phrase as the conductor allowed, heroic in delivery. She's a perfectly lovely singer. The only criticism of Cynthia Sieden's *Zerbibetta* is that she made it sound far too easy. It is, of course, much harder in this version, the final section of her aria a tone higher with forests of top Es and a top F sharp. Sieden flung it all off with insouciant ease in a truly virtuoso performance. Adrian Thompson was a robust, verbally incisive *Bacchus*, and Roderick Williams made his mark in *Harlekin's* aria.

Nigel Douglas had the last word: "I'm afraid I slept through most of that." I'm afraid that for much of the time I rather envied him.

RODNEY MILNES

## New interest rates for Halifax customers.

The Halifax announces new interest rates for savings customers.

Non-resident and non-personal rates

Effective from 1st May 1999.

Rates payable to Halifax UK savers are advertised separately.

ACCOUNT	Non-resident rates <sup>1</sup>				Non-personal rates <sup>2</sup>			
	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99
	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %
<b>BONUS GOLD</b>								
£100,000+	5.05	5.05	4.85	4.85	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.55	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.20	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.00	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.40	3.40	3.30	3.30	-	-	-	-
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£100,000+	4.95	4.94	4.85	4.75	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	4.55	4.55	4.45	4.46	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.22	4.22	4.12	4.12	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.02	4.02	3.93	3.93	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.25	-	-	-	-
<b>SOLID GOLD</b>								
£25,000+	3.20	3.20	2.95	2.95	3.15	2.90	2.90	2.32
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.75	2.75	2.70	2.85	2.85	2.28
£5,000+	2.50	2.50	2.55	2.55	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.08
£2,500+	2.45	2.45	2.20	2.20	2.45	2.20	2.20	1.76
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£25,000+	3.15	3.15	2.91	2.91	3.11	2.90	2.86	2.29
£10,000+	2.96	2.96	2.72	2.72	2.96	2.81	2.81	2.25
£5,000+	2.76	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.81	2.61	2.57	2.06
£2,500+	2.42	2.42	2.18	2.18	2.42	2.28	2.18	1.74
<b>LIBOR GOLD</b>								
£100,000+	2.05	2.05	1.95	1.95	2.00	1.90	1.90	1.52
£50,000+	1.95	1.95	1.85	1.85	1.90	1.80	1.80	1.44
£25,000+	1.85	1.85	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.65	1.65	1.32
£10,000+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>Halifax Savings Certificate Accounts</b>								
£10,000+	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.00	3.60	3.44	3.40	2.72
£5,000+	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.75	3.20	3.05	3.00	2.40
£2,500+	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.40	2.95	2.78	2.75	2.20
£1,000+	2.90	2.90	2.70	2.70	2.65	2.47	2.45	1.96
£500+	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.80
<b>Halifax TESSA</b>								
£10,000+	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.25	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	4.00	4.00	3.80	3.80	-	-	-	-
<b>Halifax Income Account</b>								
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.80	2.55	2.55	2.04
£5,000+	2.30	2.30	2.05	2.05	2.30	2.05	2.05	1.64
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£10,000+	2.76	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.76	2.52	2.52	2.02
£5,000+	2.28	2.28	2.03	2.03	2.28	2.03	2.03	1.62
<b>TESSA 2</b>								
£10,000+	-	-	-	-	3.20	3.00	3.00	2.40
£5,000+	-	-	-	-	2.65	2.45	2.45	1.96
£2,500+	-	-	-	-	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.68

### Bonus Accounts

Rates shown do not include bonus, except where stated.

ACCOUNT	Non-resident rates <sup>1</sup>				Non-personal rates <sup>2</sup>			
	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99	CURRENT	RATES FROM 01/05/99
	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %
<b>BONUS GOLD</b>								
£100,000+	4.35	4.35	4.10	4.10	5.10	4.10	3.85	4.85
£50,000+	4.00	4.00	3.85	3.85	4.85	3.70	4.70	2.96
£25,000+	3.70	3.70	3.50	3.50	4.50	3.35	4.35	2.68
£10,000+	3.60	3.60	3.40	3.40	4.40	3.25	4.25	2.60
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£100,000+	4.25	4.27	4.05	4.02	-	4.05	3.78	-
£50,000+	4.00	3.93	3.85	3.78	-	3.85	3.64	-
£25,000+	3.70	3.64	3.55	3.45	-	3.55	3.30	-
£10,000+	3.60	3.54	3.40	3.35	-	3.45	3.20	-
<b>Monthly Income Plan</b>								
£100,000+	2.76	2.75	2.56	2.55	5.09	-	-	-
<b>TESSA 2</b>								
£10,000+	5.30	5.30	5.05	5.05	5.65	-	-	-
£5,000+	5.20	5.20	5.45	5.45	5.57	-	-	-
£2,500+	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	5.82	-	-	-

POINTS TO NOTE. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Interest will be paid net after the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form and made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings customers who appear in our records as being under 21. If your savings account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21. The non-resident interest rates are payable to individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and who complete an appropriate declaration form. "Bonus Gold, Solid Gold and Liquid Gold" non-personal accounts (such as accounts held by clubs, charities and companies) are no longer available to new customers. "Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA 2, Bonus Gold and Monthly Income Plan, are available from any Halifax branch.

Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 29th April 1999





## BOOKS

# The literary bunfight of the century

Malcolm Bradbury finds he's off the shelf of this modern library — but that he's in very good company

It's a none-so-curious fact that whereas the great works of fiction from the first half of this century have acquired a firm place in the literary histories, been widely studied and placed in the chronicle of modern literature, those of the second half have not been set in much shape or order at all.

This is partly because they are considered as contemporary. Yet 50 years, in literary terms, is a long time. It's also partly because, where the literary endeavours of the first half-century have a certain aesthetic clarity, those of the second look much more fragmentary. All canons are in perpetual dispute. Still, if we consider who were the major writers of English-language fiction to the great cultural break of the Second World War, then a fairly clear front rank can be drawn up: say James, Conrad, Lawrence, Stein, Woolf, Joyce, Ford, Faulkner, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Waugh. Their great project would be the transformation of Victorian fiction, with its "loose baggy monsters", into a fiction of modernism and modernity. We are talking, in short, about an age.

The postwar period has not yet taken shape as an "age". It has seen a new set of revolutions in modern English-language fiction, not least be-

**THE MODERN LIBRARY**  
Ed. Carmen Callil  
and Colm Tóibín  
Picador, £12.99  
ISBN 0 330 34182 0



cause of the great irruption of American and other literatures. It contains its fair share of major talents. Yet the reputations are still disputed and its aesthetic developments don't look clear. Ten years back the term "Post-Modernism" served to suggest an artistic direction, taking us from the fiction of Beckett and Nabokov to that of Pynchon and Barth. But it has dissolved into a debate over vaguer matters: gender revision, post-colonialism, a transformation less of art forms than of subject matters and cultural origins.

That makes shaping a canon more difficult. We do it, of course; and at no time more than when a century and mil-

lennium is turning. The Callil-Tóibín *Modern Library* is one way of going about this. A user-friendly book, it partly acts as a listing of listings — giving us, for instance, accounts of past winners of the many prizes that nowadays go towards making literary reputations (the Booker, the Whitbread, the CNA, the Commonwealth, etc.) much as publication in avant garde magazines once aided the reputation of the great Modernists.

Listings (prizes, guides, culture supplements and so on) are now the way most artistic information is transacted. As with contemporary literary criticism itself, they are more concerned with pluralism and cultural eclecticism than standards of judgment. This book is not concerned with critical solemnities; in places it shows a dislike for academic styles in judgment. Enthusiasm, we're told, is its driving force; the books are chosen for readers "of every age and taste": "its purpose is to celebrate the writers we have loved best, and to proselytise on behalf of their novels: sources of entertainment and enjoyment as satisfying as any Hollywood movie, football match..."

The editors' listings are called passionate, idiosyncratic; they remind us they're neither English nor American



(Callil is Australian, Tóibín Irish). Thus they have good reason for taking an eclectic, cosmopolitan view of modern fiction. As they rightly say, some of the most important fictional writing now comes from anglophone writing elsewhere, from Australian and Canadian to Indian, African and Caribbean. They express justified impatience at the poor availability of many of these works, though the neglect has significantly if selectively diminished lately.

This provides the most refreshing side of the book, interesting entries you didn't expect to see: Bapsi Sidhwa, Kushwant Singh, Oscar Hijuelos, Scots, Irish (but not Welsh), Australasian, Canadian (but not South African) writing gets high rates of entry. So do genre writers: P. D. James and Ruth Rendell, Patricia Highsmith, John le Carré and Stephen King. So why not Ian Fleming?

I'm glad to see a number of books that matter to me: Wil-

liam Gaddis's *The Recognition*, William H. Gass's volume *In the Heart of the Country*, B. S. Johnson's novel-in-a-box *The Unfortunates*, Wilson Harris's *Heartland*. There are some works of real triviality and the one-page-per-book entries vary greatly in quality. Some are deft in judgment; others are no more than publishers' blurbs, and many titles prove "electrifying" or "engrossing".

As an absentee myself, I am naturally interested in the sig-

nificant absences. Tolkien is directly excluded (and some may indeed prefer Stephen King). But it seems odd to be without one of the finest novels published here in the period, John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Peter Ackroyd, John Berger, Lawrence Durrell, Vikram Seth and Angus Wilson fail to make it. So do Paul Auster, John Barth, Richard Brautigan, Robert Coover, John Hawkes, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Gore Vidal and Richard Wright.

The book is provocative and interesting. Its best use is to start an argument about an era that, at least in calendar terms, is closing (though since it uses passionate liking as the criterion it's hard to argue over terms). As it turns out, it has been a major period for anglophone fiction, and the novel itself has survived most of the disasters said to be awaiting it. Now it finishes the century in good shape. This book's great use is that this is what it helps us to see.

## Serbia in the grip of a deadly myth

One of the more dispiriting aspects of our current moral adventure in the Balkans is the deliberate perversion of objective reality. The West is determined to see through these operations against the dictator Milosevic: yet Nato still ducks the issue of pre-settlement ground forces, the majority of Kosovans are being driven out, not massacred, and the presence of opposition leaders in Milosevic's Government suggests he is at worst an evil autocrat.

But these pale compared to the wilful unreality of the Serbs: the Kosovans are being driven out by the KLA and Nato; the pictures of refugees are faked; the Serbs are acting in self-defence. Most depressingly of all, even the most liberal Serbian voices seem to be without a word in defence of the simple humanity of the people victimised in their name. How can they be so obtuse?

Noel Malcolm has already dissected the Kosovo myth. Anzulovic's target is its overarching myth, "Heavenly Serbia" — the notion of the Serbs' preference for moral purity over military victory — and how it has led to genocide in the 1990s. Thomas provides a straightforward analysis of how Slobodan Milosevic came to, and maintained, power. Taken together, *Heavenly Serbia* and *Serbia under Milosevic* go a long way to explaining the apparent unreality of the voices of even moderate Serbs.

It is hard not to think that Serbia is stuck in some kind of cultural, historical and political adolescence. "Heavenly

**DOMINICK DONALD**  
**SERBIA UNDER MILOSEVIC**  
By Robert Thomas  
C. Hurst & Co., £14.95  
ISBN 1 850 65367 4

**HEAVENLY SERBIA**  
By Branimir Anzulovic  
C. Hurst & Co., £25  
ISBN 1 850 65342 9

Serbia" is always right, particularly when outsiders indicate otherwise, and never more so than in cataclysmic defeat. Though the myth was useful in explaining Serbia's partly consensual Ottoman occupation, its application to 1990s Europe smacks of pathological self-indulgence. Thomas argues convincingly for Serbia's lack of political development. Political discourse has failed to move on from symbols to policies, and Milosevic has shanghaied the symbols. The largely urban "Happening of the Citizens" in the winter of 1996-97 seemed to show a growing political maturity. But so strong is the hold of the symbolic, and Milosevic's grip over the media and the rural population, that he could launch the crackdown in Kosovo in February 1998 simply to strengthen his position in Belgrade's post-election deadlock.

Is there anyone who can lead the country to maturity? Rarely can a people have been so ill-served by its elites. Its intellectuals were instrumental



Control in his sights: Milosevic exploits his grip on the media and the rural population

in supplanting nationalism with an unpleasant nationalist credo. Its literati churn out Nietzschean paens to violence (Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister, is the author of a work called *Knife*), building on oral tradition and the 19th-century Montenegrin Prince-Bishop Njegos's hymn to ethnic cleansing, *The Mountain Wreath*. Its political opposition has yet to move beyond squabbles over whether Dayton is a betrayal of Greater

Serbia; of its leaders only Zoran Djindjic, president of the Democratic Party, emerges from the shenanigans of the 1990s with any credit. The difficulty is that the myths and symbols have a near-universal hold over Serbs, and Nato has acted at a time when the political discourse is too immature to resist their lure. Neither work is perfect; Anzulovic has a dire chapter on the implications of Western acceptance of the

myth which repeats old canards, while Thomas's book reads like a dry textbook-in-progress. Yet both are essential for anyone who wants to know why the Serbs don't see things our way, and to work out how to deal with them.

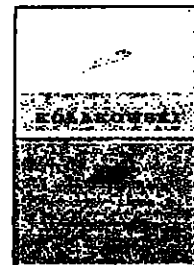
**LINKS**  
[www.bbc.org](http://www.bbc.org) regularly updated site detailing human rights abuses in Kosovo  
[www.serbia-info.com](http://www.serbia-info.com) the website of the Serbian Ministry of Information

## Tolerance isn't as laid-back as all that

There can be few more eminent figures in the world of ideas than Leszek Kolakowski. Now in his 72nd year, Kolakowski has held distinguished positions in America, Britain and his native Poland; his writings and speeches continue to play their part in shaping Western culture. Philosopher, historian, theologian, political scientist and literary critic, he exemplifies a type of intellectual already rare on the Continent, and almost non-existent in the English-speaking world. His most important book — the three-volume *Main Currents of Marxism* — effectively put an end to the intellectual pretensions of Marx and his followers, while, in his imaginative studies of the religious worldview, Kolakowski has made an exemplary attempt to overturn the cynical materialism of modern philosophy.

*Freedom, Fame, Lying and Betrayal* is a collection of short and lucid essays. Abstract thoughts about freedom, God and human nature are interwoven with concrete observations about the trials of modern life and the author's humane and tolerant worldview is tested against the harsher human realities. There are no footnotes; the great philosophers are rarely mentioned, and modern scholarship is ignored. But the reader feels that he is in the presence of a deeply serious and learned thinker who has the rare gift of speaking simply about complex things. At their best the essays are little gems of applied philosophy; even when their light is dimmed by hesitation, they are both useful to the general reader and challenging to the academic philosopher.

**ROGER SCRUTON**  
**FREEDOM, FAME, LYING AND BETRAYAL**  
By Leszek Kolakowski  
Penguin, £8.99  
ISBN 0 14 028044 8



Kolakowski's experience of communism has left him with a deep revulsion towards that evil creed. But his philosophy is not defined by this revulsion; on the contrary, it is a search for some positive alternative. The result is a synthesis of Roman Catholic theology with a liberal-humanist morality. Whether this reconciliation of opposites is possible may be doubted; but Kolakowski is determined to make the attempt. It is, he implies, the best that we can hope for.

Catholics are often accused of intolerance. But as Kolakowski points out, tolerance is not merely compatible with strong beliefs; it actually requires them. To tolerate something you must also disapprove of it: otherwise what looks like tolerance is merely indifference. When gay activists accuse Catholics of "homophobia", they are trying to make disapproval into a crime. While pretending to attack intolerance, they are

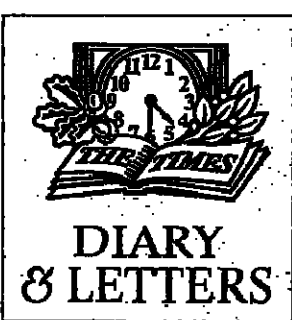
actually displaying it. Here is one point where the morality of liberal humanism has let us down. Kolakowski is surely right in this. In my experience the most intolerant people are liberals: people who can tolerate any belief whatsoever, provided it is not seriously held, and who therefore demonise everyone who really disagrees with them.

Kolakowski's essay on God goes straight to the heart of modern doubts and soothes them with lapidary words. God is "that place to which Reason, the Imagination and the Heart are persistently drawn". He is the goal of our thinking and desiring, and without Him we cannot realise our potential. That there is Good in the world counts, for Kolakowski, far more in favour of God's existence than Evil counts against it. And he implies that the chaos and violence of our times is a direct result of our loss of faith. He does not exculpate the Church for its experiments in violence; but he points to the virtue of an institution that can publicly confess to its faults.

Here and there Kolakowski misses an intellectual opportunity: in the essay on travel he sees this modern vice as a healthy expression of curiosity, rather than as what it is, a self-centred determination to be other; while in his account of violence he makes no mention of the concept of "structural violence" with which sociologists wage war on the institutions of social control. Nevertheless, the essays offer a sustained adventure of ideas, and the moral sense is constantly engaged by them.

■ **MAGNUS MILLS**, bus-driving Booker shortlistee, fears no comparison. The author of *The Restraint of Beasts* has a new book coming from Flamingo in September. *All Quiet on the Orient Express* publishers usually provide their reps with notes on "competition" (Helen Dunmore up against Sebastian Faulks, for instance) — so who is Mills up against? George Crabbe, Thomas Hardy and Franz Kafka, those wild 'n' crazy guys...

■ **PICK** a genius, any genius. Over £100,000 is to be handed out to unknown authors. The Arts Council of England is giving awards of £7,000 to 15 writers with "work in progress" —



and the judges had no idea who they were. Marina Warner, Michèle Roberts and Don Paterson read through hundreds of anonymous works and picked the best. The winners will be lifted from obscurity on May 27. Ian McEwan presents the cheques at London's Imagination Gallery.

■ **BERNARD CORNWELL** has always spread his talents, giving his books on Sharpe and the "Rebel" series to HarperCollins and his Arthurian trilogy to Penguin. Now he'll put all his books under the HarperCollins roof for a seven-figure deal, with the publication of *Stonewall* 2000 BC in time for Christmas.

■ **OVERHEARD** in a pub from a man recommending reading to two 18-year-olds: "Books give you a lovely balance between your own experience and the world's experience." Could anyone put it better?

■ [books@the-times.co.uk](mailto:books@the-times.co.uk)

## Poet going somewhere, despite himself

ONCE we asked too much of our poets: they had to be prophets and lawgivers at once. Then we asked too little: they had to be as much like us as possible, make poems that were indistinguishable from drab prose. Now, with our best poets, a balance has been struck, the lessons of both modes internalised. Michael Hofmann in *Approximately Nowhere* (Faber, £7.99; ISBN 0 571 9524 5) is still half in love with poetry as description and enumeration:

the velvet curtains slowly turning to dust on the woodwormed rail, my diminished establishment

of bin-liners and suitcase (our 1961 cardboard family "Revelation"), the Olympia Traveller I logged around Mexico and two pairs of boots

The trouble with this is that it tries to suggest that attention to detail is attentiveness to the world. It also, in a very English way, tries to suggest that cold description hides deep feeling, as in the opening poem, *Tea for my Father*, which ends:

He likes it very strong, with cream, in mugs, and sweetens it himself. He puts it on the window-sill in front

of his table, and lets it go cold. Later on, I come and throw it out.

Interestingly, that poem is dated 1979. Gert Hofmann died in 1993, and the first part of the book consists of poems in his memory. The coy self-consciousness of lines like "Later on, I come and throw it out" have gone. In their place is a new attentiveness, not to detail but to the immense complexity and confusion of life:

The new south east cemetery is approximately nowhere ten stops by underground then bus zigzagging through the suburbs

The lack of punctuation makes palpable the sense of how death always escapes us. The poet accepts that and builds it into his poem. *Epithet*, the masterpiece of the collection, is still happy to enumerate ("Sprays of pluperfect flowers at your head, the swanky brass tag at your feet"), but is open to people and situations as well:

A custodian (one of your characters, morbid and fussy and phlegmatic) took out the alarmingly long screws from the coffin, as though someone would try very hard to get out or — you would have said — in

This is as funny, rich and painful as a passage in Beckett. And that combination is to be found throughout the volume: in the fine *Kleist in Paris*, in the pangs of adultery and betrayal.

Michael Hofmann is one of our finest translators. He moves with ease between German, English and American cultures and idioms. Less extreme than his father, more at ease in the world, but with his father's compassion for the broken and defeated, he grows in stature with each succeeding book.

GABRIEL JOSIPOVICI

هكذا من الاصل



## BOOKS

## God wouldn't believe in Dawkins, either

Is science 'the truth' or merely a system of belief?

A history of its institutions begs the question

In Samuel Johnson's great dictionary the first definition of "science" is simply "knowledge": the history of how it has decayed into a paranoid and destructive system of specialised applications is the history which this volume attempts to trace. It charts the course by which what was once the "servant of nature", to employ Francis Bacon's phrase, became the usurper and maligner of nature.

It must be noted at once that contemporary science is not an all-encompassing reality. It is a system of beliefs competing with other systems. It is an enterprise in time and space, in other words, an activity which changes direction or shape and sometimes even goes into reverse. One of the strengths of this volume, in fact, is the extent to which it illuminates how science alters according to the country or culture in which it is practised.

Certain cities encourage certain types of scientific methodology;

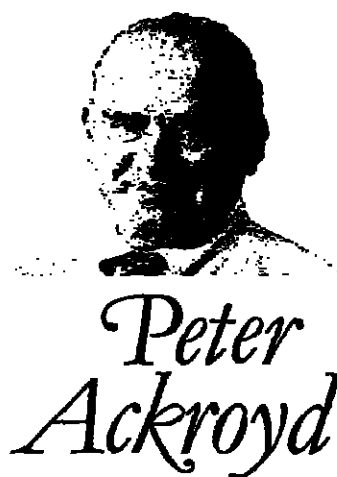
throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, for example, London and Paris were engaged in internecine warfare for pre-eminence in experimental matters with London encouraging pragmatic applications. And the authors of this book suggest that the 19th-century invention of the "campus" and the "graduate school" in the United States created a suitably enclosed and hierarchical environment for research.

In fact science has for most of its existence depended crucially upon institutions, generally male-dominated, and thus has become an aspect of patriarchal society. The culture of learned societies was co-opted by the State and became that of "official institutions" which supported "the forces of rational enlightenment, progress and modernisation".

Measurement itself becomes co-opted as a State activity — "The State established measures of assets, animate and inanimate", according to the authors of this book.

"better to control them" — and thus the concept of precision was directly related to acquisitiveness and power. The authors once more suggest that "measurement signalled industry and improvement". The introduction of uniform clock time, with the use of mechanical clocks, regimented life in ways unknown to any previous generation.

There are other very interesting chapters in this almost encyclopaedic survey. The connection between science and Protestantism, for example, is firmly made. It is true that the founders of the Royal Society, including Sir Isaac Newton, were practising alchemists and astrologers — and it is also true that this aspect of early experimental science has remained obscured in most histories of the subject. But the history of science in the last decades of the 17th and the early decades of the 18th century is wholly implicated in the Protestant ethic.



Peter Ackroyd

One great intellectual historian has suggested that "Puritanism, and ascetic Protestantism generally... played no small part in arousing a sustained interest in science". The rejection of scholastic authority, the sustained examination of God and nature beyond the corrupting interpretation of priests, the faith in human perfectibility — all

blossomed in a consuming reverence for science and technology.

In similar fashion individual "cabinets of curiosities" became collections, which then turned into state-funded museums where the taxonomy of knowledge was displayed; the temples of the 19th century, "monumental and imposing", which evoked "connotations of dignity, antiquity and permanence", when in fact they were organised upon distorted and temporary misinterpretations of the world.

In this context it is interesting to note that in the 1870s one or two brave souls dared to question the truth and purpose of Darwinism — that, in the words of one opponent, was quackery designed "to refer all effects to the same cause" — before being silenced by the scientific establishment.

The social order and the scientific system have become so clearly implicated with each other that they cannot now be separated. There is no such thing as "pure" science, only that which has become the "servant" of the State rather than of nature.

There is a very interesting chapter here on the relationship between

science and slaughter. It poses the question, "Why should warriors have a professional interest in abstract knowledge?" to which the only possible answer is that abstract knowledge is an instrument of power and of oppression. Abstract knowledge has no perpetrators and no victims: it represents a supposedly impersonal force which can effortlessly master the world. The authors note how physicians conduct a "war" against disease while bomber pilots master the guidance of their missiles with "surgical precision". The principal medical officer in the United States is known as the "surgeon-general".

This is in certain respects not an easy book to read; the level of cliché is high. Writers thunder, sands shift, struggles are deadly and tomes are unwieldy. But if ever there was an occasion to divorce style from content, *Servants of Nature* represents it. It is a challenging, and necessary, book.

**SERVANTS OF NATURE**  
By Lewis Pyenson &  
Susan Sievert-Pyenson  
HarperCollins, £24.99  
ISBN 0 00 223852 X

## Dying for an identity

RUSSELL CELYN JONES

TAKING LIVES

By Michael Pye  
Phoenix House, £16.99  
ISBN 1 861591 09 8

WHAT'S in a name? Big trouble when it's not your own. A young Dutchman witnesses the accidental death of a stranger in Florida and sees a perverse opportunity. He mutilates the face, breaks the teeth and swaps watches with the dead man. Martin Arkenhout is now Seth Goodman, for a while at least. As his bogus identity is about to be rumoured in New York, he kills someone to assume another identity and moves on. The places he goes, the jobs he performs are described in a twilight prose to contrast with the graphic details of the murders.

But everyone has secrets that only surface after death. For the impostor this can be very compromising. Arkenhout's third victim is Professor Christopher Hart, an art historian who had stolen some valuable paintings. *The Liber Principis*, from a London museum.

Archivist John Michael Costa just wants the pictures back, no further questions asked, and traces Arkenhout to Portugal. Simultaneously the Dutch police are closing in on Arkenhout after a chance sighting by his mother as he was travelling through Amsterdam on his way to Portugal. But that is all I should reveal of this engaging plot.

In a way, Costa is in the same business as Arkenhout, museums being the mausoleums of misplaced identity. And from the moment Costa is revealed as the narrator his own identity problems become as central to the story as Arkenhout's. The prose, moreover, is striking. Take this one description of a fire: "A bush burst out in neon orange, then the red and orange licked their way to the edge of the road and the tall, dry grass stems went off like sparklers. The brambles ran like fuses into a hedge. The air shook so you could hear it, like a ship when the engines start turning."

Pye's concerns continue to broaden out to include Portugal's recent political history and classical archaeology. So many themes and changes in character and point of view require sustained concentration from the reader, as does Costa's slightly awkward explanations as to how he acquired information about Arkenhout while dealing with him as Hart.

But these are minor criticisms. Precise and absorbing, *Taking Lives* is also surprisingly moving for a thriller.

## The moral is: there are no morals

Peter Preston wishes Christopher Hitchens would forget about Bill and Sid and move on to other things

Christopher Hitchens is that cherishing rarity, a man of the Left who writes with all the barbed eloquence the Right has sought to make its own. His *Vanity Fair* essays often turn polemic into an art form. He has the historic swagger of the old English pamphleteers. But, alas, this is a rather sad little book.

Its ostensible purpose is to reveal William Jefferson Clinton as a compulsive fornicator, liar, bully, employer of scumbags, friend of mobsters and shameless political compromiser. Yes, quite: but what's new? Surely there's no market left for the standard Rees-Mogg thesis with added adjectives? What's new is the last five pages (out of 112) and they have almost nothing to do with Clinton and everything to do with the author's awful predicament.

A few weeks ago some of Washington's grandest political commentators put on a cabaret where they sang barbed songs about the great and not-so-good. Thus the President, sitting there in the audience, smiling, was "Caught by the DNA" (to a Springsteen beat). Another song featured one "Christopher Snitchens".

The story behind the sneer is simple enough. Hitchens went to lunch with his "old friend" turned White House

**NO ONE LEFT TO LIE TO**  
By Christopher Hitchens  
Verso, £12  
ISBN 1 85984 736 6



aide, Sidney Blumenthal. Sid told Chris that Monica was a compulsive "stalker" who the gallant Bill had fended off — and Sid knew because Bill had told him personally. Much later, Sid was hauled before the Senate and asked whether the lies about stalking were White House ones. Oh no, he said. Oh yes they were, said his old "friend" Chris to the House Judiciary Committee, dishing the lunch table chat. Clinton walked away unscathed. Blumenthal stayed stuck in a perjury mire.

Here's the kind of judgment call that journalists have to make from time to time, an ethical dilemma which can punch you on the nose if you get it wrong. Was Chris wrong

to snitch on Sid? Perhaps. The source was a chum talking off the record. Any practical judgment at the time of the snitch was that it would make no difference: Clinton, lies or no lies, was already certain of acquittal. But these personal/professional conundrums are the devil to deal with and you can make out a good case for testifying truly when called.

The trouble is that Christopher Hitchens doesn't make that case. He makes a six-egg omelette of a defence in which he is "taken hostage" by Blumenthal's information and resolves at the last "that the pact a journalist makes is, finally, with the public". He lectures us on the "great, annihilating" tactics of Stalinism. He finds, equally, that "Clintonism poisons everything it touches". And here is what is so sad about this slim volume. It is a work of absurdly conflated self-justification. It tells you rather too much about the bleeding ego of the author — and thus not much of interest about its supposed subject.

Bill Clinton, for Hitchens's purposes, has to be portrayed as one of history's great monsters. Monica has to be a "defenceless and vulnerable young woman". The supporting cast, from Vernon Jordan to Colin Powell, has to be uniformly repulsive. The poor have to be thrown into the gutter while the rich fawn on



It's enough to make anyone clutch his head in his hands: Clinton faces scandal yet again

the destroyer of the New Deal.

This is a Ben Jonson version of Beltway life designed to shed a kinder light on our hero, who stood out against corrosive tyranny — and paid for his bravery by being laughed at in Washington supper clubs.

Time to move on. Clinton is bombing Belgrade (and that doesn't fit the thesis). Sid is no friend of Chris any longer and forgetfulness blooms again in Washington. Much, much better books await the Hitchens touch. There now, can we all calm down?

## LINKS

[www.independencemag.org](http://www.independencemag.org): the grassroots "National Committee" that lobbied to impeach Clinton first time around.  
[www.earthlink.net/~eric/eric](http://www.earthlink.net/~eric/eric): a site devoted to stopping "the witch hunt".  
[www.speakeasy.com/~newsflash](http://www.speakeasy.com/~newsflash): describes itself as "The Monica Lewinsky On Line Fan Club".



## On the crest of a wave

**DANCING NAKED IN THE MIND FIELD**  
By Kary Mullis  
Bloomsbury, £12.99  
ISBN 0 7475 4376 3

THE biochemist Kary Mullis won the 1993 Nobel Prize for PCR (polymerase chain-reaction) which gave new meaning to DNA. Thereafter known as the Surfer Scientist, he has been high on a wave ever since. Now he gives us his Joe Schmo attitude on life, love, alien encounters and the ruthless careerism of the scientific establishment. His view is that the bastards are out to get ya. For all the California Weird, Kary knows a thing or two.

## Love lines

**ARTHUR RIMBAUD**  
By Benjamin Ivry  
Outlines, £6.99  
ISBN 1 899791 71 X

WE are mostly adjusted now to the significance of a poet's sexuality in any assessment of his work, though there is an argument against categorisation of gays in a literary ghetto. Ivry's short biography is dedicated to Rimbaud as an "exceptional being dedicated somatically and psychically to homosexuality" and deals fully with Rimbaud's violent, passionate affair with Verlaine. The muse of lyric poetry doesn't discriminate against poets — only critics and readers do that. Ivry is on the side of Erato.

## No nonsense

**MIND, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY**  
By John Searle  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99  
ISBN 0 297 64300 2

SEARLE's subtitle, "Philosophy in the Real World", is a dunking clue to his belief in external realism and Enlightenment idealism. His admits that his distaste for Post-Modernism is unfashionable, but at least he is confident of the material existence of the ground on which he sturdily plants his feet. He's a real bruiser for reality: in this short book, he punches his weight in defence of common sense against the effete, affected, artificial constructs of relativism.

## All that jazz

**A PORTRAIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON**  
By Stuart Nicholson  
Sidgwick & Jackson, £20  
ISBN 0 283 06338 6

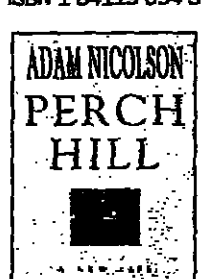
THE current fashion for biography, exemplified by George Plimpton's recent biography of Truman Capote, as a cut and paste compilation of the testimony from the subject himself, his friends, family and associates, and with minimal authorial linking narrative, is perpetuated here to immediate effect. Compiled from first hand sources, it takes jazz back to its roots, profiling the Duke, one of its polymathic greats, in this centennial year of his birth. A terrific rap.

IAIN FINLAYSON

## A rural idyll not mired in sentiment

**JONATHAN DIMBLEBY**  
PERCH HILL

By Adam Nicolson  
Robinson  
£14.99  
ISBN 1 84119 054 3



Adam Nicolson is both a refugee from the city and a columnist. It would be easy, therefore, to rush to judgment about this account of urban exile on a farm in the Sussex Weald. Mercifully, though, this book is not another exercise in metropolitan archness and angst. On the contrary, it is a delight: beautifully written, acutely observed and laced with self-mockery.

After the failure of his first marriage, Nicolson was on his uppers, psychologically as well as financially — a collapse of self-esteem which he recounts with no trace of false sentiment. His epiphany came after a late night trudge through London which was aborted when a gang of teenagers threw bleach in his eyes and mugged him. Supported by the saint-like Sarah, the woman for whom he had left his wife, he began his search for a Postmodern Arcadia and ended up falling for Perch Hill Farm: a dreary house, some asbestos buildings and 90 acres of unpromising farmland on the edge of the Sussex Weald.

So far, so predictable. What makes this particular love affair with rural England unusual is Nicolson's ability to interweave mud-spattered anecdote with poetic observation. So he rages against a neighbour who pours tarmac on an

ancient cart-track to protect a voluptuous BMW, but he is touched by a meeting of farmers trying to save a local market and who inhabit "faces in which the wind had broken the veins".

He also has a fine sense of the absurd. Eager for free-range eggs, he buys the birds and builds a palace of a hen-coop, but its inhabitants soon fall from grace as the author notices that the eye of a chicken is "about as warm and responsive as a 100-watt bulb". And when his ewes break through a fence, they not only contrive to vandalise a car but



Nicolson sees the countryside's romance without romanticising it. Photo from Images

he has to fork out £3,000 in damages.

At his best, Nicolson is a chronicler in the class of Richard Jefferies or John Stewart Collis. Like them, he describes the land and the people who work on it with precision and insight. And, like them, he wears his learning lightly. As an environmentalist who knows that "an oak tree 60 foot high may drink 15,000 gallons of water a day", he instinctively nurtures the concept of "sustainability" but approaches its meaning without once using the term or belabouring the point. Nor, incidentally, does

he pontificate about the rape to which the landscape of southern England has been subjected, though it clearly dismays him.

Nicolson is not ashamed to wear his heart on his sleeve. One hot afternoon, when butterflies "cruised and flickered" across a field and a wood was "needled with birdsong", he lay in the grass and buried his nose in "the sun-warmed turf, breathed it in, smelled how good it was", knowing that he was right to have made the move. In moments of such bliss, he appears to inhabit a world where the human spirit

and nature are at one and where he is able to discover "the underside, those deeper connections" to which he is drawn again and again.

As he and Sarah become ever more rooted in their arched refuge, Nicolson reflects with characteristic self-deprecation that "the whole experience was a blunder into truth". It is a tale well told and a truth worth the telling.

## LINKS

[www.greenbookonline.com/cpr/](http://www.greenbookonline.com/cpr/): the official website of the Committee for the Protection of Rural England

**THE TIMES BOOKSHOP**

**HISTORY OF THE WORLD**  
NEW EDITION  
Intelligent, accessible and visually sumptuous, this remarkable book has changed our way of viewing history. Times readers can buy this new edition for only £40, £10 less than the normal price.

- over 1.3 million copies sold worldwide
- over 500 computer-generated colour maps
- 150,000 words of main text and captions
- 100,000 word glossary

**CALL: 0990 134 459** (Calls charged at national rates)  
Fax +44 1326 374 888. e-mail: [bookshop@the-times.co.uk](mailto:bookshop@the-times.co.uk)  
• FREE UK postage and packing • Delivery in 28 days

Or post coupon to: News Books, FREEPOST, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2BR  
Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet):

Qty	Title/Author	Total Price

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
I enclose cheque/PO(s) payable to NEWS BOOKS for a total of £ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please write your name and address on the back of all cheques  
Debit my Mastercard/Visa/AmEx, Switch or Delta account no: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by air/air in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Airmail outside Europe add 35%).  
The suggested retail price of a book can be subject to change by the publisher without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers ☐



ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

Sponsored section

# From Victoria to the millennium



Victorian Gothic architecture provides a genteel façade for a modern academic outlook

**T**hough dressed mostly in the garb of Victorian Gothic architecture, St Edward's is not afraid to grasp the torch of progress. Tradition is respected, but the future is embraced and the school provides a system of education that denies isolation yet retains the bonds that hold a school together. It acknowledges that academic and sporting success (at which the school excels) are not the be-all and end-all of education.

The school aims to have a broad intake. A common entrance mark of 50 per cent, as an average of all the papers, is needed for entry—below the level required by many "metropolitan powerhouses" but it fits St Edward's philosophy.

"We like a range of pupils and that includes a broad intellectual range as well as a wide range of talents, be they sporting, artistic, musical," says David Christie, the Warden (headmaster). "Children get a better education the more they mix with people of a wide range of abilities and background; this prepares them better for the future."

In *The Times* A-level school league table last year the school came 351st in the country. And with 15 Oxbridge places being awarded to pupils in 1998 (out of about 90), the children's intellects are not suffering.

Mr Christie's philosophy and enthusiasm stem from his teaching experiences. One of the few public school headmasters with a background in the state sector, he originally taught at George Watson's in Edinburgh.

He then trained teachers at Moray House College, also in Edinburgh, which moulded his thoughts on schooling: "The old style of teacher training was a difficult, frustrating task. Things have changed, thankfully." From there he went to the European School in Luxembourg, teaching the children of European civil servants. With its emphasis on languages and understanding other countries' cultures, it was a revelation.

Mr Christie was the head of economics at Winchester before joining St Edward's in 1988. He has just returned from a sabbatical in the US, where he lectured on the Scottish Enlightenment's influence on America in the 18th century, and his dynamic approach

For 136 years St Edward's School has played a unique part in Oxford life. Its new sports centre, to be shared with the public, is a groundbreaker. George Pendle presents a two-page report

to education has prompted many changes at the school, from coeducation to the founding of the new sports complex. "I want to provide more and more facilities for the pupils so that they can develop their different intelligences and their different skills working together with other people, communicating with other people. I want them to be fit for life."

St Edward's primarily offers a boarding education, (there are three times as many boarders as day pupils) but even day pupils are at the school from 8.30am to 9pm. From September there will be ten houses—seven for boys, three for girls. The fees—£4,750 a term for boarders and £3,380 a term for day pupils—are not cheap. But there are many scholarships on offer for academic, music, art or all-round skills.

Last year 31 scholarships and exhibitions were awarded.

With a pupil-staff ratio of 8 to 1 and a staff turnover of less than 10 per cent a year, the school is neither stretched for resources nor understaffed. It has links with Oxford and Oxford Brookes universities; indeed several pupils are sons of dons. Many an Oxford don, says Mr Christie, has cycled over to the school to give talks. The pupils also have the chance to use the university's famed Ashmolean and Science Museums.

Within the school, departments are equally up to speed with information technology. Foreign language classes spend at least one lesson a week in the computer room, on which £300,000 has been spent in the past two years.

Ian Rowley, the head of modern languages (one of the school's most successful areas) sees IT as a great benefit. He says: "Using computers allows students of different academic ability to work in the same classroom without holding each other up or going too quickly. Thus, it enables students to be challenged at their own rate. When it comes to grammar, using the computer helps to sweeten the pill. It is a motivation for staff as well as pupils."

St Edward's has certainly given greater priority to academic work in the past ten years than it had previously. "The world has changed; gone are the days when mere attendance at a public school guaranteed the opening of doors," says Mr Christie. "I'm glad that people



David Christie, Warden

are taken on their merits. The world is more competitive and children must be more flexible. We have a good number of very able pupils; we also have pupils of average ability—that is the environment in which people learn best.

"I believe in breadth, in preparing people for the future. I want them to have a good life, to feel happy and confident about themselves, able to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves and to have fun with a wide range of people."

"At the same time you hope that can happen while pupils are having a worthwhile, interesting and fulfilling time at the school. Any school that looks only to the future and forgets that five years has to be spent within its walls cannot provide a good education."

## A look back in honour

**I**n 1863 Thomas Chamberlain, a High Church clergyman, founded four schools in Oxford as part of the "Oxford Movement", a religious movement advocating traditional forms of worship, *George Pendle writes*.

Of the four schools founded, only St Edward's remains, having moved north from its original site in the city centre in 1873 to Summertown, where it straddles the Woodstock Road. The area was developed in the late 19th century.

St Edward's soon disposed of the OM's dogma, while retaining the magnificent Gothic architecture that had come with it. Almost in defiance of its past the school now has a woman chaplain and, most liberally of all, optional chapel attendance for pupils.

"We do not make pupils attend an act of worship on Sundays," David Christie says. "We have people here of every faith and none."

Although St Edward's has never been a large school (its



Old boys: dambuster Guy Gibson, novelist Kenneth Grahame and actor Lord Olivier



### HISTORY

pupils have in recent years numbered around 600), it has nevertheless produced an impressive list of old boys. Kenneth Grahame was one of the first pupils at the school.

Its verdant setting left a great impression in his mind and was possibly the origin of his classic tale of riverbank life. Breaking out of the late-Victorian stuffiness that had created the school, he wrote

the escapist *The Wind in the Willows*.

Both boys and masters served in the world wars, many giving their lives. The chapel is a shrine to their endeavour, the walls being engraved with their names.

Two of St Edward's old boys gained recognition for the roles they played in the RAF during the Second World War. Wing Commander Guy Gibson became a hero for leading the famous 'Dambusters' raid in 1943. Sir

Douglas Bader was also a pupil at St Edward's. He is remembered in the names of school buildings and was a friend to the school up until his death. Laurence Olivier was another old boy and played his first Shakespearean role at the school (*Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream*), instigating a theatrical tradition that continues to this day. Other old boys include Jon Snow, the television journalist, and George Fenton, the film music composer.

# Something's going on behind the bike shed!

**Esporta**  
Health & Fitness Clubs



Games have never been so much fun! At First Leisure we've teamed up with St Edwards School, Oxford to develop a new Esporta Health and Fitness Club, helping to provide the school with outstanding sports and recreation facilities, including swimming, tennis, gymnasium and fitness classes.



If you'd like to see your school get the same grade A results, why not call Mark Morgan or John Scribbins, on 0171 437 9727.



HUMBERTS

CHOCKS AV

THE NEW SPORT

Humberts Leisure is pro  
St Edward's School on  
of its new sport

Humberts Leisure provides  
counselling advice and inn  
suing finance and forming  
for leisure devel

• Purchases • Valuation  
Lease Renewals • Arbit  
Planning • Expert Witne

For further information,  
Anthony Miller FR

12 BOLTON STREET  
LONDON W1Y  
PHONE: 0171 629 6700  
Email: anthony.miller@hum  
www.humberts-leis

CHARTERED SU  
SURE BUSINESS  
PROFESSIONAL FORCE SER

ALLEN & OVERY



ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

# Slow to take the plunge, but girl power pays dividends

George Pendle reports on how the 'giant step' of going coeducational brought balance and growth to the boarding school

ONE of the most significant changes undertaken by the school in recent times has been the implementation of complete coeducation.

Girls first arrived at St Edward's in 1983, but only into the sixth form. When David Christie arrived as Warden in 1988 he was already looking towards beginning coeducation throughout the school, but it took nine years of consideration before they could be admitted.

"Full integration of girls into the school was considered and turned down twice," he explains. "We didn't have enough female teachers and we didn't have enough experience in educating large numbers of girls."

The school had to adjust not only its pastoral care, but also to work out the logistics of housing all the new pupils. A lot of planning had to be done, but eventually the giant step

was taken in 1997. Of course the impact of that "giant step" has, as hoped, dissipated almost completely. St Edward's is now a co-ed school and you could not tell it had ever been anything else. Many of the pupils and teachers have almost forgotten what life was like before the change.

Nick McEwen, the joint head of school, verifies that opinion: "It was strange at first seeing younger girls, but within days it seemed like it had always been this way. It's really made the school more interesting. You get a 14-year-old girl involved in a play with senior boys and she can hold her own completely."

There are two girls' houses — Macnamara's and Oakthorpe — and this September one of the boys' houses (Corfe) will become a third girls' house, while the displaced boys will move into the new residential house. "I think the new house is a big statement on the attitude of St

Edward's," says Mr Christie. "We believe in boarding."

The introduction of girls has meant an equal shedding of places for boys but the school is at the moment growing towards its optimum size of 600 pupils. Every public school needs more pupils, but St Edward's seems to have avoided the trend of looking abroad for students.

There are, of course, pupils from overseas at St Edward's but the essential character of the school is very modern and very English. Going coeducational has not only helped increase intake, but it also chimes in with the school's philosophy of a complete education.

"I've always been in favour of coeducation," says Mr Christie. "I think without it you are inhibiting the educational process. That's my own opinion and others might disagree. One benefit of independence is that schools can choose the model they believe in."



Girls have been fully integrated into school life; the decision has meant that St Edward's can offer a more rounded education

## Team effort clinches £6m sports centre

In a unique deal, commerce is funding a complex that will be open to public and pupils

DAVID Christie, the Warden of St Edward's for the past 11 years, has a gleam in his eye. "There may be other examples of this but I don't know of any," he says with a smile.

St Edward's is about to undertake a scheme unheard of in private schooling. In co-operation with the First Leisure group, work is about to begin on a £6 million sports centre in the school grounds that will be open to the public and the pupils.

Such an undertaking would seem to create a huge headache but not, it seems, for Mr Christie whose smile is undimmed. No wonder: the sports complex is to be built entirely at First Leisure's expense while the school needs to provide only the land, on lease. Clearly, both sides will benefit from the arrangement.

The new multipurpose health and fitness centre is set to be the envy of many larger establishments and will include indoor tennis courts, squash courts, a 25-metre swimming pool, a gymnasium and an aerobics studio.

In addition to access to some of the most up-to-date facilities, a large sports hall is being built for the exclusive use of the pupils. First Leisure has undertaken to maintain the entire centre, swimming pool and all. The school will have no maintenance costs.

Such a foray into the commercial market is bound to raise eyebrows, but Mr Christie has few apprehensions.

"As a schoolmaster, not a businessman, one is always concerned that we are not getting the best deal, but our relations with First Leisure have been excellent. We are teachers, not leisure centre managers. We want to concentrate on what we are good at and leave the management to those skilled in that area."

The advantages of such a scheme are clear and look set to spur the interest of other schools — the centre has been gained without a penny being put on fees.

"Through this scheme we've enhanced our facilities enormously," Mr Christie says, "but simultaneously there's nothing that's putting a financial barrier up to people coming to the school, either through raised borrowing or

increasing the fees and that's what's so exciting. Our pupils' interests always come first."

Indeed, at a time when many private school pupils are becoming secondary considerations to the financial running of a school, it is a refreshing change to see business and teaching harmonised so readily and successfully as they have been here.

Although the construction of the centre has been ceded to First Leisure, there is no question of outsourcing of the school's sports teaching. St Edward's staff will continue to run physical education and games to the high standards that have made it a feared presence on sports pitches.

The school's previous sports centre was also used by the public, who are expected to

apply in some numbers for membership of the complex, set within the grounds in the affluent Summertown area of North Oxford.

Having members of the community using the new complex also helps to strengthen the school's bond with the area. "Even if we had the £6 million to build this centre, we would still want the public to be using it," Mr Christie says.

Under the careful eye of David Bramble, the former bursar, it is hoped that the centre will be fully operational by next summer.

Mr Bramble initiated the project and, despite his retirement, will see it through to completion as project manager. He points out that there has been "a massive improvement in both the sporting and

academic facilities for pupils in recent years."

At the same time as the sports centre is being built a new boarding house is also being completed. Senior pupils' rooms will feature en suite facilities. "It's the way things are going," says Mr Christie. "Unless schemes are found like the one we are involved in, the costs will continue to escalate."

Between May and February the new buildings will replace the present Douglas Bader sports centre but the name will remain intact.

The preservation of the memory of one of the school's greatest old boys is seen as important — the one concession to the past in a project that is resolutely looking towards the future.

## Pupils excel at rowing and rugby

SPORT

"THERE is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." So said Kenneth Grahame, one of St Edward's most illustrious old boys, who surely must have picked up the habit as a pupil here.

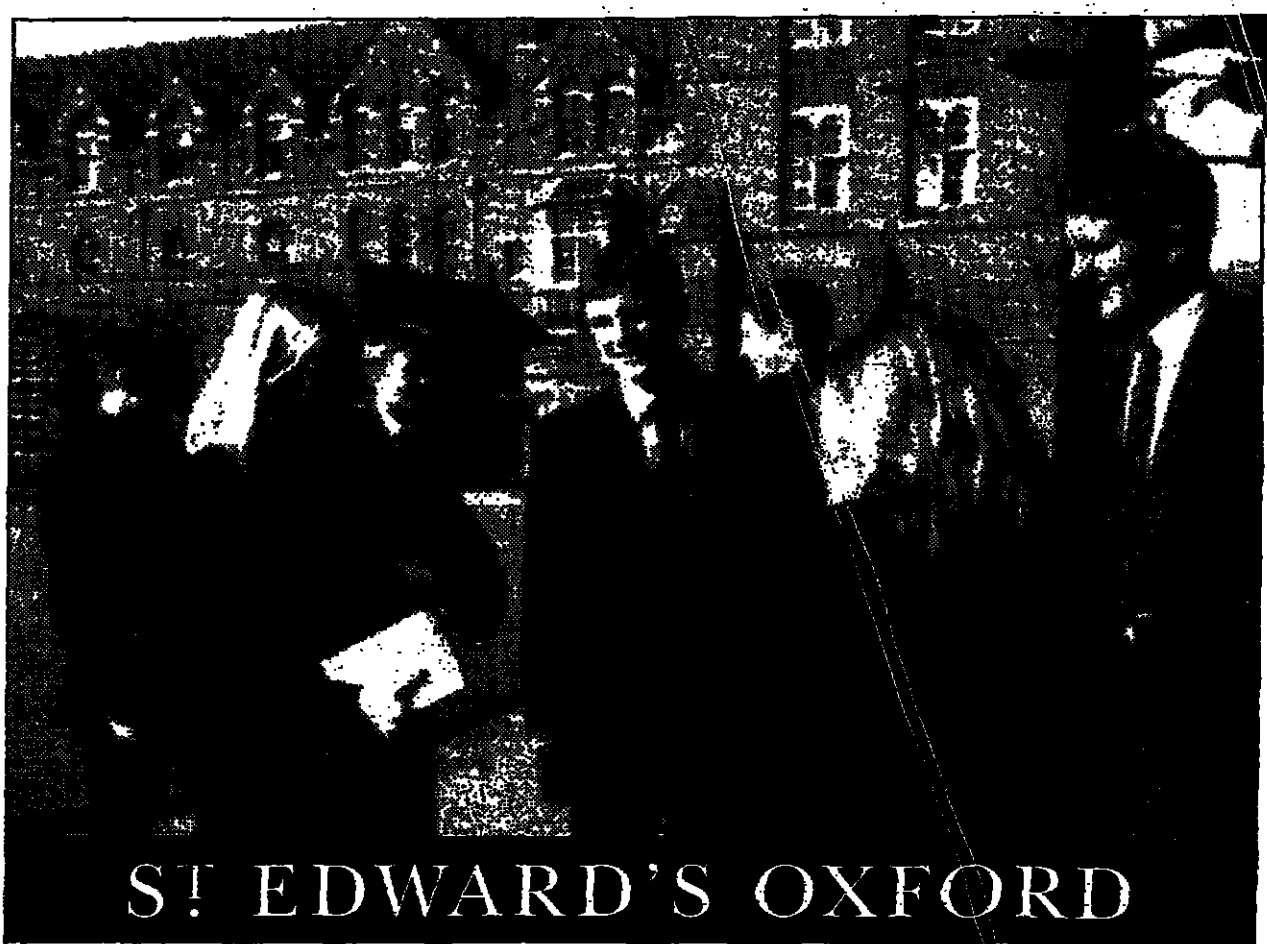
The boating tradition continues at St Edward's to this day, only now it is a little more than just "messing about". St Edward's prides itself on its sporting success and especially on its rowing. Winner of the schools' Head of the River race in both 1997 and 1998, St Edward's even set a new course record in its last triumph.

Strong competitors at the National Schools Regatta and Henley, some of the rowers go on to gain Blues in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race. Girls' rowing is also taking off, and it is hoped that they will emulate the success of the boys' crews. The school, however, does offer rowing at all levels, not just for the top teams, and with a boathouse on the nearby Thames, it takes place in surroundings of which Toad and Mole would surely have approved.

Yet rowing in no way eclipses the other sports on offer. The rugby team can boast an under-19 England international among its ranks. It won all but one of its games last season. The school is always a strong contestant in the Rosslyn Park Sevens competition. The girls' skiing team has also won many medals.

Almost every pupil takes part in a sporting activity of some kind (there are three or four teams for each sport in each year group) and the 90 acres of sports fields at the school allows a lot to take place. A new six-hole golf course is now on site and the soon to be constructed leisure complex will offer an enviable amount of alternative sports to take part in.

The advent of an all-weather pitch has led to a renaissance in hockey. Apart from that, sailing, athletics, and more are on offer.



### ST EDWARD'S OXFORD

## Boys & Girls 13 - 18

St Edward's is one of the country's leading co-educational independent schools with strong academic, musical and sporting traditions.

Easily accessible from London, the South East and Midlands, St Edward's has a friendly, close knit environment which encourages each individual to develop his or her potential to the full.

A range of generous academic, art, music and all-rounder scholarships is available.

For further details please write to Mrs. Anne Brooks

St Edward's School, Oxford, OX2 7NN, or telephone for a preliminary discussion, 01865 319200.

## HUMBERTS LEISURE

### CHOCKS AWAY FOR THE NEW SPORTS COMPLEX!

Humberts Leisure is proud to have advised St Edward's School on the development of its new sports facility.

Humberts Leisure provides first class expertise, consultancy advice and innovative solutions to raising finance and forming strategic alliances for leisure development

Sales • Purchases • Valuations • Rent Reviews  
Lease Renewals • Arbitrations • Rating  
Planning • Expert Witness • Consultancy

For further information, please contact  
Anthony Miller FRICS IRVV

12 BOLTON STREET MAYFAIR  
LONDON W1Y 7PA  
TELEPHONE: 0171 629 6700 FAX: 0171 409 0475  
E-mail: anthony.miller@humberts-leisure.com  
www.humberts-leisure.com

CHARTERED SURVEYORS  
LEISURE BUSINESS SPECIALISTS  
A PROFESSIONAL FORCE SERVING THE LEISURE INDUSTRY

### ALLEN & OVERY

Allen & Overy is pleased that its property, planning and educational charity specialists were involved in advising St Edward's School in relation to all aspects of the Sports Centre project.



ALLEN & OVERY

One New Change, London EC4M 9QO  
Tel: 0171 330 3000 Fax: 0171 330 9999  
www.allenover.com

### BIGNELL SHACKLADY EWING

95 Spencer St  
Birmingham  
B18 6DA  
Tel: 0121-523 1121  
Fax: 0121-523 1120

### Architects & Designers

Specialists in leisure design.  
Email: bse@bsestdemon.co.uk

### Architects Design Partnership

Architects to St Edward's School since 1986.

Specialists in the master-planning and implementation of educational building projects. Successful in translating the needs and expectations of our clients into solutions which enhance the image and reputation of the institution. Good buildings, the right facilities and a pleasant environment are important to parents, pupils and staff.

Let us help you achieve your full potential.

Architects Design Partnership  
Canary House, Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1UD  
Tel: 01865 248045 Fax: 01865 790729  
E-mail: oxford@adp-architects.co.uk



## Bargains of the week: a Bank Holiday weekend in Jersey; walking in the Basque Country; touring Africa's most splendid sites



A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices

## BANK HOLIDAYS

EASTBOURNE is angry at a new Thomson television commercial depicting the place as the kind of sleepy resort you avoid for the fishpots of Europe, *Tony Dawe* writes.

To show just what the town can offer, *Elite Hotels* has a special deal this Bank Holiday weekend: a two-night break at the five-star Grand for £99 between Friday and Monday. Similar deals are available at the group's hotels in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex and Hook in Hampshire. Details: 01323 412345.

ST HELIER is the sunniest town in the British Isles — and that's official — so it could be the best place for the first Bank Holiday week of May.

Thomas Cook Holidays is offering a week's B&B at a guest-house close to shops and the beach for £261, with a return flight from Gatwick on Sunday. Details: 01733 418300.

TENNIS, swimming, a gym and sauna are all on hand and the peace, tranquillity and donkeys of the New Forest on the doorstep of the Passford House Hotel, where Sunvil UK is offering Bank Holiday weekend breaks at special rates. Arrive tomorrow or Saturday and two nights' B&B costs £64.50. Details: 0181-232 9788.

DINGLE Peninsula can claim to be the wildest and most beautiful part of the West of Ireland and has well-located holiday cottages available at a discount from May 8. A week's self-catering with Irish Ferries Holidays costs £85, based on four sharing and with a Pembroke-Rosslare ferry crossing for car and passengers. Details: 08705 170000.

NORTH YORK Moors is Britain's least appreciated National Park, but Inntavel is offering the chance to discover it on a four-night walking trip from May 14, which costs £315 with half-board in atmospheric inns. Details: 01653 628862.

VILLAS and apartments in converted farmhouses on wine and olive-growing estates throughout Tuscany are available all next month from Crystal Premier Italy. Deals offering two weeks for the price of one are running until May 15. Prices start at £329, including return flights from Gatwick and car hire. Details: 0181-390 5554.

MONET fans who missed the London exhibition of his paintings can see some of his work at the Orange Museum in Paris, which houses his largest pictures and will show a special collection of 60 paintings from May 6. Two nights' B&B, Eurostar travel and entry to the exhibition will cost from £163 with Time Off. Details: 0990 846363.

KEFALONIA for a week from Sunday for £139 and Skiathos for a week from Monday for £99, both self-catering and with flights from Manchester, are the best and most immediate offers to the Greek islands this week from Kosmar. Details: 0181-882 6999.

VENICE can be explored on a fortnight's Airtours holiday available from Co-op Travelcare for £219 and starting on Sunday. The offer includes half-board on the Venetian Riviera and flights from Gatwick. Details: 0541 500388.

SAVINGS of £200 on spring walking breaks in the Pays Basque are available with Pyrenées Adventures, cutting the cost of a week's peaks and valleys holiday from May 8 to £295 with full board. Travel is extra and return high-speed rail tickets from London cost £165. Details: 01433 621498.

HAMBURG'S biggest party, celebrating the 810th birthday of the city's famous harbour, takes place from May 7 to 9 and Lufthansa has special fares for those wanting to join the celebrations. Return flights from Heathrow cost £140 and Benz Travel can book them and accommodation. Details: 0171-462 0000.

ATHENS and its classical sites, plus the palaces, mosques and bazaars of Istanbul — with a five-night cruise in between — are all included in ten-night trips with Sovereign, which start with flights from Heathrow on May 20 and 25. Prices now start from £900. Details: 08707 500500.



At the Acropolis: a special deal to Athens is on offer

## LONG HAUL

CRUISING in the Far East for five days to resorts in Thailand and Malaysia is combined with two nights in Singapore on a special package available from Premier Holidays for £929. Fly from Heathrow on May 18 and 25 with Singapore Airlines to take advantage. Details: 01223 516677.

FOR those who prefer to stay on dry land, Asean Explorer is offering two weeks at beach resorts in Hua Hin, Thailand, for the price of one. The deal runs for the next two months and costs from £684, including return scheduled flights. Details: 01481 823417.

EMIRATES is busy flying cricketers and their supporters to the World Cup in Britain in mid-May, so there is plenty of space in its home town of Dubai, where Tradewinds is offering six-night breaks at the four-star Oasis Beach Hotel for £499. The holidays are available with flights from Gatwick on May 19 and 26. Details: 0870-751 0004.

NAIROBI for £298 return tops the flight deals on offer this week and is available

from Bridge The World for departures from Heathrow until the end of June. For those who can escape with small children in the next three weeks, Bon Voyage is offering Orlando for £315 return from Gatwick with two to 11-year-olds going for subject to complicated conditions. Details: Bridge The World, 0171-911 0900, Bon Voyage, 0800-316 0194.

The Nairobi offer could be used to join Dragonair's African adventure starting from the Kenyan capital on May 3 and 17. A five-week tour takes in many of East and Southern Africa's most splendid sites, including the Ngorongoro Crater, Zanzibar and a floating safari on Lake Kariba. The price of £1,035, plus a £300 kitty, includes travel, accommodation (mostly camping) and meals. Details: 01728 861133.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing, unless otherwise stated.

See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

TO ADVERTISE CALL  
0171 481 1989 (TRADE)  
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

## CHECK-IN

FAX:  
0171 782 7824 (TRADE)  
0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)

## AIRLINE NETWORK

1,000,000 discount fares

USA & CANADA	USA MAY BEST BUYS	AUSTRALIA	HOLIDAY OFFERS	REST OF THE WORLD	BUSINESS CLASS
<b>WANTAWAY</b> £242 <b>PITTSBURGH</b> £243 <b>CHARLOTTE</b> £243 <b>DENVER</b> £243 <b>TORONTO</b> £243 <b>SEATTLE</b> £243 <b>HAWAII</b> £452 <b>NEW YORK SPECIAL</b> Departures up to 30/6/99 <b>£203</b> <b>USA HOTELS</b> ORLANDO £110 pppt LOS ANGELES £115 pppt BOSTON £115 pppt NEW YORK £151 pppt GREAT VALUE CAR RENTAL Alamo £16 per week accommodation based on two share	<b>WASHINGTON</b> £203 <b>BOSTON</b> £205 <b>ATLANTA</b> £205 <b>CHICAGO</b> £229 <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b> £258 <b>LOS ANGELES</b> £260 <b>ORLANDO</b> £271 <b>LAS VEGAS</b> £295 <b>PHOENIX</b> £295 * valid for departures 1/11/99 - 30/11/99 ** based on two passengers travelling	<b>AUSTRALIA SPECIALS</b> <b>PERTH</b> £545 <b>SYDNEY</b> £627 <b>MELBOURNE</b> £627 <b>BRISBANE</b> £627 <b>ADELAIDE</b> £627 <b>CAIRNS</b> £634 Departures up to 30/6/99 A great way to fly <b>SINGAPORE AIRLINES</b>	<b>SINGAPORE</b> 3nights 30/6/99 to 30/6/99 £439 <b>HONG KONG</b> 3nights 30/6/99 to 30/6/99 £445 <b>PHUKET</b> 10nights 1/5/99 to 10/6/99 £499 <b>BANGKOK &amp; PHUKET</b> 10nights 1/5/99 to 10/6/99 £535 <b>BANGKOK 5nt HOLIDAY</b> 3* HOTEL Departures 1/5/99 - 24/6/99 <b>£380</b> <b>DUBAI 5nt HOLIDAY</b> 5* JUMRAH BEACH Departures 1/6/99 - 31/7/99 <b>£499</b> Above prices include air fares based on two share, taxes subject to availability	<b>CARO</b> £239 <b>DUBAI</b> £251 <b>INDIA</b> £251 <b>BAHRAIN</b> £251 <b>MEXICO CITY</b> £251 <b>BANGKOK</b> £270 <b>HONG KONG</b> £271 <b>HO D. JANGHO</b> £274 <b>SINGAPORE</b> £276 <b>HARARE</b> £288 <b>JOHANNESBURG SPECIAL</b> Departures up to 24/6/99 <b>£329</b> <b>HOTELS</b> HOLIDAY INN JOHANNESBURG £23 pppt HILTON BALI £28 pppt <b>TRAVEL EXTRAS</b> * Hotels * Insurance * Car Rental * * Motorhomes * Villas * Coach Tours	<b>DUBAI</b> £256 <b>NEW YORK</b> £257 <b>BANGKOK</b> £286 <b>JOHANNESBURG</b> £286 <b>CAIRO</b> £286 <b>TOKYO</b> £286 <b>HONG KONG</b> £286 <b>CALIFORNIA</b> £286 <b>AUSTRALIA SAVER</b> Departures 2/5/99 - 31/10/99 <b>£1268</b> <b>FIRST CLASS</b> NEW YORK £298 DUBAI £298 JOHANNESBURG £298 <b>HOTELS</b> LE MERIDIEN BANGKOK £17 pppt HYATT REGENCY, H.K. £24 pppt RENAISSANCE, TOKYO £54 pppt accommodation based on two share

USA & CANADA 01772 727 272  
 AUSTRALIA & NZ 01772 727 272  
 FAR EAST 01772 727 272

Fly to our site and book your flight  
[www.airnet.co.uk](http://www.airnet.co.uk)

OPEN 9am - 9pm 7 DAYS A WEEK

ITV Telefax Page 275

REST OF THE WORLD 01772 727 272  
 HOLIDAY OFFERS 01772 727 757  
 BUSINESS CLASS 01772 727 747

## TRAILFINDERS

MORE THAN JUST LOW COST FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171 938 3566 ANYTIME

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL: 0171-938 3366  
 FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS: 0171-938 3444  
 TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPEAN: 0171-937 5400  
 BIRMINGHAM: 0121-236 1234  
 BRISTOL: 0117-929 9000  
 GLASGOW: 0141-353 2224  
 MANCHESTER: 0161-639 6969  
 NEWCASTLE: 0191-261 2345

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK THE TRAVEL EXPERTS NO CREDIT CARD SURCHARGES

## DELTA WORLDWIDE

Fly to the fantastic fares

SWEDEN	FINLAND	HONG KONG
£461	£461	£461
£461	£461	£461
£461	£461	£461
£461	£461	£461

Quality tailor-made holidays to USA, Canada & Bahamas  
 Truck Tours - Best Tours - Best Prices  
 Save £100's per person off normal prices  
 Wide range of escorted Coach Tours  
 Motorhomes USA & Canada  
 Tailor-made Fly-drive Tours  
 With inclusive Car Rental prices  
[www.jesmond.co.uk](http://www.jesmond.co.uk)  
 Call now for 1999 Brochure  
 01730 266 588

## WIN AN EVENING WITH THE VOICE OF BART SIMPSON

PLUS: FREE SIMPSONS POSTERS WORTH £3.99 EACH AND DISCOUNTS OFF T-SHIRTS, CLOCKS AND MUGS

Today The Times offers one lucky reader the chance to meet Nancy Cartwright, left, the actress behind the voice of Bart Simpson\* at an exclusive private preview of *The Art of Bart* at the Animation Art Gallery, Great Castle Street, London, W1 on Friday, May 14. The winner will also be given a signed, limited edition of Simpsons artwork, illustrated.

Every reader can get a free Simpsons poster titled *Deep Thoughts of Homer Simpson* worth £3.99 simply by attaching three differently numbered tokens to the voucher which will be published in *The Times* on Saturday and presenting it at any Virgin Megastore in the UK and Eire.

With the voucher you can also buy T-shirts in a choice of two designs for children or adults from £7.99 (usually £9.99-£11.99) and have £10 off Simpsons clocks (usually £39.99) and £1 off mugs (usually £5.99).

**HOW TO ENTER**  
 For your chance to meet the voice of Bart Simpson and win the signed artwork, simply call our competition hotline, below, with the answer to this question: Which town do the Simpsons live in? Lines are open until midnight on Tuesday, May 4.

\*See Bart Simpson in *meg* every Saturday.

### COMPETITION HOTLINE

## 0640 678 887

EX UK +44 870 901 4287

CALLS COST 44p PER MINUTE  
 The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal T.M. competition rules apply.

MEGASTORES

## THE TIMES SIMPSONS TOKEN 1

CHANGING TIMES

### FLIGHT CENTRE

ATOL 3712

## WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS

ACCESS VISA WELCOME  
 DISCOUNTED INSURANCE  
 0181 669 8607

### Monument Travel

Price from £99  
 01476 404747  
 LATE DEAL PACKAGES  
 From £99  
 01476 404757

### Charter

10% OFF CAR HIRE  
 EUROPE WORLDWIDE  
 0171 565 6805

### benz

NEW YORK 1999 SAVINGS £555  
 0171 462 0000

### ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

£35

### LIBERTY BELL

INSURANCE SERVICES

01792 481402

### USA & CANADA

01803 866455

### Travel Insurance

Comprehensive Policies  
 From £1 per day  
 "No age limit" "Any destination"  
**SUN SELECTION**  
 01582 476026

### GLOBAL FLIGHTS

ALL DESTINATIONS AVAILABLE  
 01723 277 877

### FLIGHTSEEKERS

01771 663 4425

### GIBBONS

DUBAI £205  
 NEW YORK £169  
 JOHANNESBURG £320  
 0171 408 1535

### Jetworld

01723 277 877

### SRI LANKA HOLIDAYS

0171-139 0944

### Travel Insurance

Comprehensive Policies  
 From £1 per day  
 "No age limit" "Any destination"  
**SUN SELECTION**  
 01582 476026

### FLIGHT SEARCHERS

01920 484007

### FARESAVERS

01476 592095

### USA

0181 466 0223

### CUBA

0171 1622333

### FLIGHT SEARCHERS

01920 484007

### CHEAP FLIGHTS

01920 484007

Salter re  
 blaze  
 for Bev

Reformers  
 to losing s

LOOS  
 TAL

Neath conte

Big cheese

Reformers

Neath conte

Big cheese

Reformers











RACING: GODOLPHIN FIRMS 1,000 GUINEAS PLANS BUT DOUBTS SURROUND CALANDO AND MOTHER OF PEARL

## Dettori pencils in ride on Pescara

STILL the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas refuses to emerge from its murky gestation. Though Sunday's classic has already been shown of several leading contenders, as late as yesterday ante-post punters found the door squeezing uncomfortably against the shoe. It appeared to slam on supporters of Calando, while those who have made Mother of Pearl as short as 10-1 will do well to get a run for their money.

Concrete plans remain a luxury, but at least the Godolphin team has acquired a measure of definition. Pescara, whose success in the fillies' trial at Nad al Sheba was a tribute to her progress in Dubai, is likely to be rewarded by the assistance of Frankie Dettori. Such, at any rate, was the natural interpretation of support for her, from 20-1 to 14-1 with Coral.

Though Calando dropped out of the equation after the arrivals from the desert stretched their legs on Newmarket Heath yesterday morning, Richard Hills is expected to ride Fairy Queen. Godolphin's personnel also seems sorted for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas on Saturday, with Dettori on Island Sands.

By CHRIS McGRATH

Esauar will be ridden by Michael Roberts. Even Godolphin is not immune to the misfortune of a three-year-old filly, having been forced to scratch Ediaz from the 1,000 Guineas earlier in the week. While doctor's orders are not a factor with Mother of Pearl, Peter Chapple-Hyam still rates her only "50-50" to come under the starter.

She is more of a staying filly and will come into her own over a mile and a half," the trainer said. "I'm more tempted to wait for the French or Irish Guineas or possibly go for the Musidora at York."

Chapple-Hyam remains more positive about Commander Collins, though there appears less conviction to the colt's tenure near the head of the 2,000 Guineas field. Advising punters not to forget his other runner, Brancaster, the trainer might find his upbeat approach open to misinterpretation.

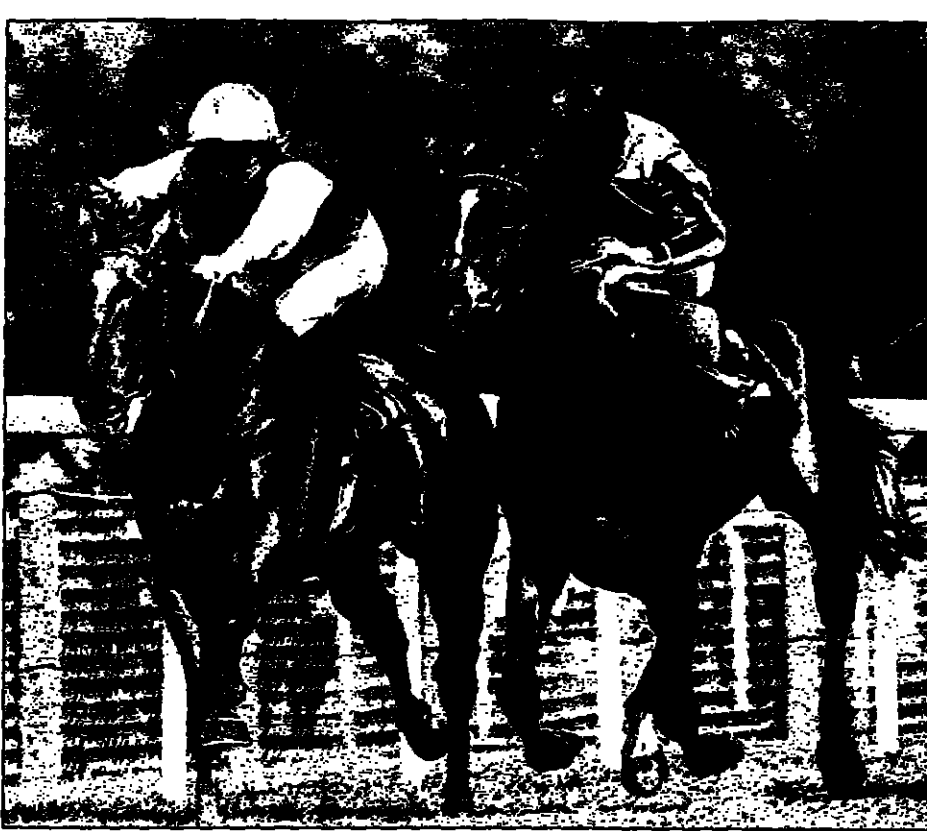
"There's nothing to choose between them at home," he said. "They go to Newmarket with equal chances." These, no doubt, are the very last words

backers of Commander Collins wished to hear.

Manton has still to produce a winner this season whereas Henry Cecil, also facing a weekend, could be emboldened by the listed-race success of Inisinate at Ascot yesterday. Enrique contests 2,000 Guineas favouritism despite faltering in front in the Greenham Stakes, while Wince staked a sufficient 1,000 Guineas claim in the Fred Darling Stakes for Hills to go 10-1 from 14-1 yesterday.

They both went nicely this morning," Cecil said. "I'm delighted with them, and they both have a great chance of being in the first three. Wince is improving, while Enrique thought he'd done enough after being in front too soon. A lot of mine are needing a race, and they should come on."

Life is never dull for those who follow the fortunes of Celeric, the long-distance runner who needs to be ridden for a turn of foot. But Richard Quinn was quick to warn, stopping challenge of retraining him until well inside the last furlong of the Inisinate Sagaro Stakes. Celeric is now 8-1 with Coral to retrieve the Gold Cup he won in 1997.



Celeric, right, lands the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

### MEETING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

Underfoot conditions: Standard, Hard, Firm, Good, Soft, Heavy

**REDCAR**  
Flat, 6 furlongs  
1st race: 2.20  
Winning favourite: 34.3%  
Long-distance travellers: Thats Life (13.20), Myndrom (13.20), Mr Spectacular (12.20), 273 miles

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
Flat, 7 furlongs  
1st race: 2.10  
Winning favourite: 32.2%  
Long-distance travellers: Arbor Esils (3.10), 146 miles

**BRIGHTON**  
Flat, 6 furlongs  
1st race: 2.00  
Winning favourite: 36.4%  
Long-distance travellers: Sonnet (2.00), Arbutus (2.00), 192 miles

**EARLY BIRD**  
Best value this morning  
Swinford  
Dream  
12/1 with Coral & William Hill  
Newmarket, 5.10

See racecards for detailed going

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

**Ascot**  
Good, good to soft in places.  
2.00 (1m), OPTIMATTE (J. Sprake, 15-8) 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th, 679th, 680th, 681st, 682nd, 683rd, 684th, 685th, 686th, 687th, 688th, 689th, 690th, 691st, 692nd, 693rd, 694th, 695th, 696th, 697th, 698th, 699th, 700th, 701st, 702nd, 703rd, 704th, 705th, 706th, 707th, 708th, 709th, 710th, 711st, 712th, 713th, 714th, 715th, 716th, 717th, 718th, 719th, 720th, 721st, 722nd, 723rd, 724th, 725th, 726th, 727th, 728th, 729th, 730th, 731st, 732nd, 733rd, 734th, 735th, 736th, 737th, 738th, 739th, 740th, 741st, 742nd, 743rd, 744th, 745th, 746th, 747th, 748th, 749th, 750th, 751st, 752nd, 753rd, 754th, 755th, 756th, 757th, 758th, 759th, 760th, 761st, 762nd, 763rd, 764th, 765th, 766th, 767th, 768th, 769th, 770th, 771st, 772nd, 773rd, 774th, 775th, 776th, 777th, 778th, 779th, 780th, 781st, 782nd, 783rd, 784th, 785th, 786th, 787th, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st, 792nd, 793rd, 794th, 795th, 796th, 797th, 798th, 799th, 800th, 801st, 802nd, 803rd, 804th, 805th, 806th, 807th, 808th, 809th, 810th, 811st, 812th, 813th, 814th, 815th, 816th, 817th, 818th, 819th, 820th, 821st, 822nd, 823rd, 824th, 825th, 826th, 827th, 828th, 829th, 830th, 831st, 832nd, 833rd, 834th, 835th, 836th, 837th, 838th, 839th, 840th, 841st, 842nd, 843rd, 844th, 845th, 846th, 847th, 848th, 849th, 850th, 851st, 852nd, 853rd, 854th, 855th, 856th, 857th, 858th, 859th, 860th, 861st, 862nd, 863rd, 864th, 865th, 866th, 867th, 868th, 869th, 870th, 871st, 872nd, 873rd, 874th, 875th, 876th, 877th, 878th, 879th, 880th, 881st, 882nd, 883rd, 884th, 885th, 886th, 887th, 888th, 889th, 890th, 891st, 892nd, 893rd, 894th, 895th, 896th, 897th, 898th, 899th, 900th, 901st, 902nd, 903rd, 904th, 905th, 906th, 907th, 908th, 909th, 910th, 911st, 912th, 913th, 914th, 915th, 916th, 917th, 918th, 919th, 920th, 921st, 922nd, 923rd, 924th, 925th, 926th, 927th, 928th, 929th, 930th, 931st, 932nd, 933rd, 934th, 935th, 936th, 937th, 938th, 939th, 940th, 941st, 942nd, 943rd, 944th, 945th, 946th, 947th, 948th, 949th, 950th, 951st, 952nd, 953rd, 954th, 955th, 956th, 957th, 958th, 959th, 960th, 961st, 962nd, 963rd, 964th, 965th, 966th, 967th, 968th, 969th, 970th, 971st, 972nd, 973rd, 974th, 975th, 976th, 977th, 978th, 979th, 980th, 981st, 982nd, 983rd, 984th, 985th, 986th, 987th, 988th, 989th, 990th, 991st, 992nd, 993rd, 994th, 995th, 996th, 997th, 998th, 999th, 1000th, 1001st, 1002nd, 1003rd, 1004th, 1005th, 1006th, 1007th, 1008th, 1009th, 1010th, 1011st, 1012th, 1013th, 1014th, 1015th, 1016th, 1017th, 1018th, 1019th, 1020th, 1021st, 1022nd, 1023rd, 1024th, 1025th, 1026th, 1027th, 1028th, 1029th, 1030th, 1031st, 1032nd, 1033rd, 1034th, 1035th, 1036th, 1037th, 1038th, 1039th, 1040th, 1041st, 1042nd, 1043rd, 1044th, 1045th, 1046th, 1047th, 1048th, 1049th, 1050th, 1051st, 1052nd, 1053rd, 1054th, 1055th, 1056th, 1057th, 1058th, 1059th, 1060th, 1061st, 1062nd, 1063rd, 1064th, 1065th, 1066th, 1067th, 1068th, 1069th, 1070th, 1071st, 1072nd, 1073rd, 1074th, 1075th, 1076th, 1077th, 1078th, 1079th, 1080th, 1081st, 1082nd, 1083rd, 1084th, 1085th, 1086th, 1087th, 1088th, 1089th, 1090th, 1091st, 1092nd, 1093rd, 1094th, 1095th, 1096th, 1097th, 1098th, 1099th, 1100th, 1101st, 1102nd, 1103rd, 1104th, 1105th, 1106th, 1107th, 1108th, 1109th, 1110th, 1111st, 1112th, 1113th, 1114th, 1115th, 1116th, 1117th, 1118th, 1119th, 1120th, 1121st, 1122nd, 1123rd, 1124th, 1125th, 1126th, 1127th, 1128th, 1129th, 1130th, 1131st, 1132nd, 1133rd, 1134th, 1135th, 1136th, 1137th, 1138th, 1139th, 1140th, 1141st, 1142nd, 1143rd, 1144th, 1145th, 1146th, 1147th, 1148th, 1149th, 1150th, 1151st, 1152nd, 1153rd, 1154th, 1155th, 1156th, 1157th, 1158th, 1159th, 1160th, 1161st, 1162nd, 1163rd, 1164th, 1165th, 1166th, 1167th, 1168th, 1169th, 1170th, 1171st, 1172nd, 1173rd, 1174th, 1175th, 1176th, 1177th, 1178th, 1179th, 1180th, 1181st, 1182nd, 1183rd, 1184th, 1185th, 1186th, 1187th, 1188th, 1189th, 1190th, 1191st, 1192nd, 1193rd, 1194th, 1195th, 1196th, 1197th, 1198th, 1199th, 1200th, 1201st, 1202nd, 1203rd, 1204th, 1205th, 1206th, 1207th, 1208th, 1209th, 1210th, 1211st, 1212nd, 1213th, 1214th, 1215th, 1216th, 1217th, 1218th, 1219th, 1220th, 1221st, 1222nd, 1223rd, 1224th, 1225th, 1226th, 1227th, 1228th, 1229th, 1230th, 1231st, 1232nd, 1233rd, 1234th, 1235th, 1236th, 1237th, 1238th, 1239th, 1240th, 1241st, 1242nd, 1243rd, 1244th, 1245th, 1246th, 1247th, 1248th, 1249th, 1250th, 1251st, 1252nd, 1253rd, 1254th, 1255th, 1256th, 1257th, 1258th, 1259th, 1260th, 1261st, 1262nd, 1263rd, 1264th, 1265th, 1266th, 1267th, 1268th, 1269th, 1270th, 1271st, 1272nd, 1273rd, 1274th, 1275th, 1276th, 1277th, 1278th, 1279th, 1280th, 1281st, 1282nd, 1283rd, 1284th, 1285th, 1286th, 1287th, 1288th, 1289th, 1290th, 1291st, 1292nd, 1293rd, 1294th, 1295th, 1296th, 1297th, 1298th, 1299th, 1300th, 1301st, 1302nd, 1303rd, 1304th, 1305th, 1306th, 1307th, 1308th, 1309th, 1310th, 1311st, 1312nd, 1313th, 1314th, 1315th, 1316th, 1317th, 1318th, 1319th, 1320th, 1321st, 1322nd, 1323rd, 1324th, 1325th, 1326th, 1327th, 1328th, 1329th, 1330th, 1331st, 1332nd, 1333rd, 1334th, 1335th, 1336th, 1337th, 1338th, 1339th, 1340th, 1341st, 1342nd, 1343rd, 1344th, 1345th, 1346th, 1347th, 1348th, 1349th, 1350th, 1351st, 1352nd, 1353rd, 1354th, 1355th, 1356th, 1357th, 1358th, 1359th, 1360th, 1361st, 1362nd, 1363rd, 1364th, 1365th, 1366th, 1367th, 1368th, 1369th, 1370th, 1371st, 1372nd, 1373rd, 1374th, 1375th, 1376th, 1377th, 1378th, 1379th, 1380th, 1381st, 1382nd, 1383rd, 1384th, 1385th, 1386th, 1387th, 1388th, 1389th, 1390th, 1391st, 1392nd, 1393rd, 1394th, 1395th, 1396th, 1397th, 1398th, 1399th, 1400th, 1401st, 1402nd, 1403rd, 1404th, 1405th, 1406th, 1407th, 1408th, 1409th, 1410th, 1411st, 1412nd, 1413th, 1414th, 1415th, 1416th, 1417th, 1418th, 1419th, 1420th, 1421st, 1422nd, 1423rd, 1424th, 1425th, 1426th, 1427th, 1428th, 1429th, 1430th, 1431st, 1432nd, 1433rd, 1434th, 1435th, 1436th, 1437th, 1438th, 1439th, 1440th, 1441st, 1442nd, 1443rd, 1444th, 1445th, 1446th, 1447th, 1448th, 1449th, 1450th, 1451st, 1452nd, 1453rd, 1454th, 1455th, 1456th, 1457th, 1458th, 1459th, 1460th, 1461st, 1462nd, 1463rd, 1464th, 1465th, 1466th, 1467th, 1468th, 1469th, 1470th, 1471st, 1472nd, 1473rd, 1474th, 1475th, 1476th, 1477th, 1478th, 1479th, 1480th, 1481st, 1482nd, 1483rd, 1484th, 1485th, 1486th, 1487th, 1488th, 1489th, 1490th, 1491st, 1492nd, 1493rd, 1494th, 1495th, 1496th, 1497th, 1498th, 1499th, 1500th, 1501st, 1502nd, 1503rd, 1504th, 1505th, 1506th, 1507th, 1508th, 1509th, 1510th, 1511st, 1512nd, 1513th, 1514th, 1515th, 1516th, 1517th, 1518th, 1519th, 1520th, 1521st, 1522nd, 1523rd, 1524th, 1525th, 1526th, 1527th, 1528th, 1529th, 1530th, 1531st, 1532nd, 1533rd, 1534th, 1535th, 1536th, 1537th, 1538th, 1539th, 1540th, 1541st, 1542nd, 1543rd, 1544th, 1545th, 1546th, 1547th, 1548th, 1549th, 1550th, 1551st, 1552nd, 1553rd, 1554th, 1555th, 1556th, 1557th, 1558th, 1559th, 1560th, 1561st, 1562nd, 1563rd, 1564th, 1565th, 1566th, 1567th, 1568th, 1569th, 1570th, 1571st, 1572nd, 1573rd, 1574th, 1575th, 1576th, 1577th, 1578th, 1579th, 1580th, 1581st, 1582nd, 1583rd, 1584th, 1585th, 1586th, 1587th, 1588th, 1589th, 1590th, 1591st, 1592nd, 1593rd, 1594th, 1595th, 1596th, 1597th, 1598th, 1599th, 1600th, 1601st, 1602nd, 1603rd, 1604th, 1605th, 1606th, 1607th, 1608th, 1609th, 1610th, 1611st, 1612nd, 1613th, 1614th, 1615th, 1616th, 1617th, 1618th, 1619th, 1620th, 1621st, 1622nd, 1623rd, 1624th, 1625th, 1626th, 1627th, 1628th, 1629th, 1630th, 1631st, 1632nd, 1633rd, 1634th, 1635th, 1636th, 1637th, 1638th, 1639th, 1640th, 1641st, 1642nd, 1643rd, 1644th, 1645th, 1646th, 1647th, 1648th, 1649th, 1650th, 1651st, 1652nd, 1653rd, 1654th, 1655th, 1656th, 1657th, 1658th, 1659th, 1660th, 1661st, 1662nd, 1663rd, 1664th, 1665th, 1666th, 1667th, 1668th, 1669th, 1670th, 1671st, 1672nd, 1673rd, 1674th, 1675th, 1676th, 1677th, 1678th, 1679th, 1680th, 1681st, 1682nd, 1683rd, 1684th, 16



## CRICKET

# Lewis gives further reminder of quality

By MARK BALDWIN

**LEICESTER** (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Leicester have scored 337 for nine wickets against Lancashire

AROUND the country, attention is centred, understandably, on players earmarked for World Cup action. At Grace Road yesterday, for instance, Ian Austin provoked more than a few murmurs by pulling out of the meeting between the champions and runners-up of last season.

A potentially heavyweight PPP county championship contest was also scaled down somewhat by the absence from the Lancashire team of Fairbrother, another member of the England World Cup squad, Martin and Atherton. Fairbrother was rested and Austin has a thigh muscle strain.

In the circumstances, the likes of Darren Maddy and Chris Lewis had to fight hard to be noticed. But, in the end, noticed they were. Form and fitness seemed to be commodities in worryingly short supply in the England camp, but Austin moved to calm fears that his injury might jeopardise his involvement in the World Cup.

He has played only one CGU National League match this season, plus his three appearances in Sharjah, since having an operation on his left knee during the winter, but Austin said: "I don't think there is a serious problem. I have had some improvement in the thigh but not enough to play in a four-day game. As far as I am concerned I will be on schedule for the World Cup."

The absence of Austin and Martin, also injured, allowed Smeethurst, 22, to make his second championship appearance and he picked up the wicket of Smith after Crawley, the Lancashire captain, had, perhaps defensively, chosen to

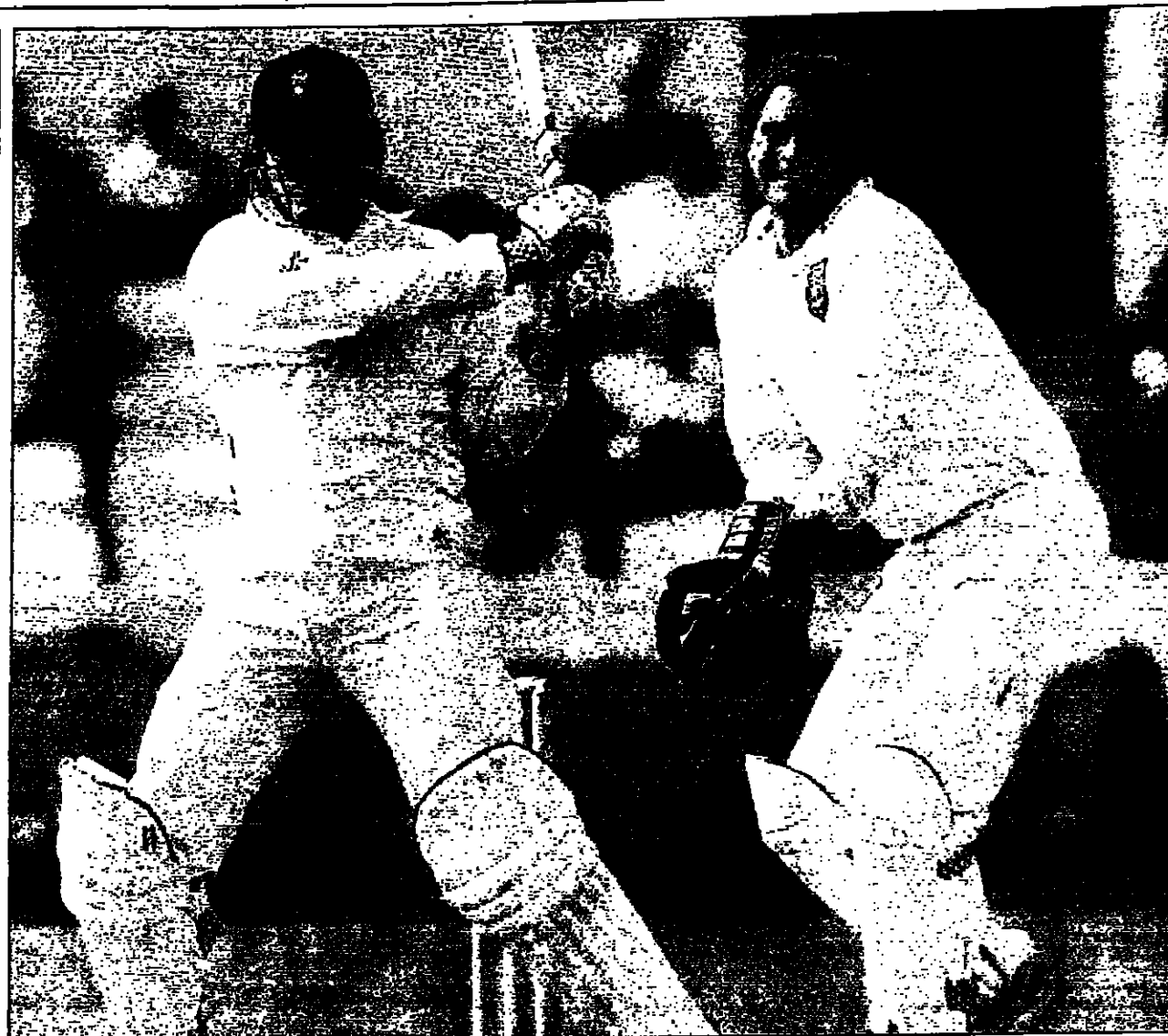
bowl first. It was Richard Green, however, who caught the eye in an inexperienced attack: he took four top-order wickets and a smart return catch to end Maddy's innings. Maddy, sixth out, scored 86 and has come back strongly from shabby treatment by the England selectors just under a year ago. The parallels with the start of the 1998 season are already apparent. Maddy, returning then as now from a successful winter A tour, began in good form and was picked for the Texaco Trophy against South Africa with a Test debut widely predicted to follow.

It never happened. He made one run in his only innings in two Texaco matches and Maddy's confidence clearly undiminished — eventually struggled to a pitiful 512 championship runs from 23 innings, one of those being a 162, against Durham.

Yesterday, however, he battled with great assurance against the moving ball and now, with two full months before the Test series against New Zealand, has plenty of opportunity to put the painful memories behind him.

Lewis would be the choice of many people as a World Cup all-rounder ahead of the likes of Austin, including, by some accounts, Alec Stewart. Lewis made 139 a fortnight ago when Lancashire launched the defence of their title by thrashing Essex and yesterday another massive contribution in the context of this game.

First with Nixon and then in a last-wicket stand of 72 with Brimston, Lewis denied Lancashire's tangle reared for a spirited deployment of their limited resources. Batting is not likely to be straightforward against Lancashire's pace attack and Chilton may rue dropping Lewis, on 30, off Green.



Kendall pulls powerfully towards the boundary as Speight, the wicketkeeper, looks on. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

## Kendall in mint condition

By RICHARD HOBSON

**CHESTER-LE-STREET** (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 344 for eight wickets against Durham

THERE is much wisdom in the adage that practice makes perfect, but Will Kendall will testify that rest, too, has a role in the quest to improve. A decision to leave his bat untouched from the end of last season until the beginning of March is beginning to appear inspired.

Last week, Kendall scored 93 for Hampshire against Kent, when a leading edge resulted in Martin McCague accepting a return catch. He was entitled to feel disappointed with his dismissal yesterday, for attempting to work John Wood off his pads carried a certain resemblance, but this time a career-best score in the county championship of 105 ensured that satisfaction soon replaced any initial frustration.

With Adrian Aymes and Derek Kenway contributing half-centuries and Dimitri

Mascarenhas scoring 44 to secure the innings, Hampshire enjoyed much the better of a first day played, for the most part, in what older spectators were able to identify as sunshine. They are the only side yet to record a first-class victory against Durham, but that might change before the weekend is over.

Having withstood a searching examination of his back-foot technique against the pace of Harrison, on a generally

slow pitch, Kendall accumulated his runs plegmatically as a quartet of Durham seamers failed to bowl with the consistency that Boon, the captain, would have required. It said much that soon after lunch he should turn to the off-spin of Gough, who bowled 24 overs in eight matches last season.

Durham had begun constructively, Lewis, at short leg, reacted swiftly to remove Stephenson and White in the first hour and Wood, maintain-

ing a length to assist swing, then forced an outside edge from Smith, which Betts held alertly at third slip. Yet having restricted Hampshire to 70 for three, they allowed Kendall and Aymes to reverse the situation with a partnership of 142 in 40 overs.

Aymes, who has established himself at No 5, played neatly between mid-on and mid-off, while Kendall remained unhurried, knowing that the "four ball" was never far away. His fifty arrived after 122 minutes with five fours and he breached the boundary on nine further occasions in progressing to three figures.

Aymes drove a half-volley back to Wood and as Kendall, after 211 minutes, provided Speight with a catch, the bowler could reflect upon belated reward for the occasions when he beat the outside edge in a far better first spell. Kenway, who is one run away from equalling his career-best of 57 today, and Mascarenhas then put on 63 to ensure that the efforts of the top order would not go to waste.

### SCOREBOARD FROM CHESTER-LE-STREET

<b>HAMPSHIRE</b> First Innings	
G W White c Lewis b Harrison.....25	
J P Stephenson c Lewis b Brown.....7	
W S Kendall c Speight b Wood.....105	
"R A Smith c Betts b Wood.....10	
"A N Aymes c and b Wood.....51	
D A Kenway not out.....56	
A D Mascarenhas b Collingwood.....44	
S D Uddall not out.....1	
A C Morris c Collingwood b Brown.....1	
N A M McLean not out.....4	
Extras (b 2, lb 13, nb 24).....39	
<b>Total (8 wickets, 105 overs).....344</b>	
S J Renshaw to bat	

<b>FALL OF WICKETS:</b> 1-21, 2-39, 3-70, 4-121, 5-239, 6-322, 7-335, 8-340.	
<b>BOWLING:</b> Brown 24-6-64-2, Betts 21-8-54-1, Harrison 18-2-83-1, Wood 23-4-76-3, Gough 7-2-23-0, Collingwood 12-2-29-1.	
<b>DURHAM:</b> J B Lewis, M A Gough, J E Morris, J A Daley, "D C Boon, P D Collingwood, "M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown, S J Harrison.	
<b>Bonus points:</b> Durham 3 Hampshire 3.	
<b>Umpires:</b> N A Maller and K E Palmer.	

## Johnson in renaissance

By PAT GIBSON

**TRENT BRIDGE** (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 377 for five wickets against Worcestershire

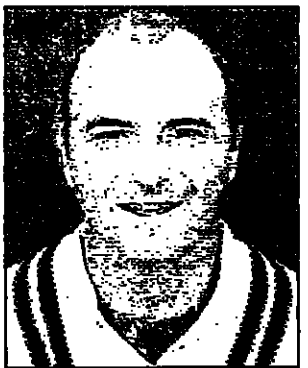
PAUL JOHNSON must be the best batsman of his generation never to have played for the England senior team. He did not look it last season when he was buckling under the burden of captaining Nottinghamshire, but he was back to his best yesterday with a century that was as warning to the Trent Bridge faithful as the long overdue sunshine.

It was an early return to Nottinghamshire's initiative in bringing back Clive Rice, who led them to two county championships in the Eighties, as manager. The first thing that Johnson did on hearing the news was to sign a new contract. The second thing he did was to get himself fit, knowing how Rice would make him suffer if he was not.

As a result, he looked born again as he went within two runs of scoring 100 between

lunch and tea with his own pugnacious brand of stroke-play. Johnson's on-drives are better described as straight lefts, his cuts as forearm jabs and his pulls as uppercuts.

Jason Gallian also asserted himself by passing 50 for the first time in 13 championship innings since taking over the captaincy last July and Chris Read, the England wicket-keeper, put on a nice little exhibit



Johnson: return to form

tion of batting in front of David Graventy, the chairman of selectors.

It all added up to maximum batting points for a side which performed that feat only once last summer. What is more, they did it on a grassy pitch.

There was bounce and movement, but unfortunately for Worcestershire, once Liprot had added to his five wickets against Surrey last week by having Robinson caught at third slip in his first over, they could not put the ball in the right place often enough.

Aszal found it hard, making only 12 in the best part of two hours before Leatherdale had him caught behind, but Gallian was beginning to find some form with 82 in a little more than three hours, including 16 fours, when Lampitt claimed him leg-before.

Then there was Johnson, reviving memories of how he was rated ahead of Thorpe and Hussain in the 1991-92 A tour of the West Indies, and finally Read, more than justifying his promotion to No 6.

## Smith takes dashing lead

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

**CHELMSFORD** (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

THE tale has become a familiar one for Essex. Just as they did against Leicestershire in their first championship match of the season, for a while they lived with, even dominated, Warwickshire yesterday. It was tempting to believe that the corner had been turned and a run of championship defeats that stretches to seven matches could be arrested.

With the considerable advantage of having won the toss, Essex found little resistance in reducing Warwickshire to 84 for six by lunch on a two-paced pitch, with all six top-order batsmen dismissed. They then spent the next 59 overs taking the remaining four wickets while Warwickshire recovered to 271.

The change in fortunes after lunch could not have been more striking. Three off-side

boundaries from solid back-foot strokes from Neil Smith, the Warwickshire captain, saw Mark Iltott out of the attack. Jamie Grove, his replacement, was promptly clattered for three fours in his first over. In the space of only 44 balls, Smith had reached a half-century that had altered the direction and tempo of the day.

His innings may have sub-



Smith: positive response

sequently stagnated, as he took 60 balls over his next 19 runs before being bowled by Iltott, but with the precedent set, Ashley Giles rarely looked troubled in scoring 30. Tim Munton contributed 24 at No 10, and Graeme Welch weighed in with an unbeaten 48.

It was a far cry from the start when Iltott and Ashley Coveen did much as they pleased with the new ball.

Most of the first hour was spent with Warwickshire batsmen rushing forward at thin air, and sure enough Iltott finished with three wickets and Cowan, Irani and Grayson two apiece — in Grayson's case the last two of the innings — but not before batting conditions were made to appear a different proposition.

The pitch may have lost much of its life as the day wore on, but Essex were unable to survive the eight overs that they were asked to negotiate before the close, losing Paul Prior and before playing back to Ed Giddins.

## Derbyshire lose their grip after Slater sparkles

By JACK BAILEY

**CANTERBURY** (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

THE first championship match of the season at Canterbury had everything that a Kent supporter could ask for, except a more encouraging performance from their team. There were blue skies, a featureless pitch and, if you could keep out of a keen wind, ideal conditions for watching Kent build a useful score after being sent into bat by Dominic Cork. But Kent's batting failed miserably, with the notable exception of Matthew Walker, 21lb lighter than he was last season and looking the better for it in every way. After they had been bowled out for 141, they were put to the sword by Michael Slater and bludgeoned by Adrian Rollins.

Prospects for Kent looked bleak when, after a century partnership between these two, Derbyshire passed the Kent total with eight wickets in hand. If ever a team had a match by the scruff of the neck at 5pm on the first day of a four-day match, it was Derbyshire yesterday.

The picture changed somewhat, though, as Dean Headley recovered from a severe mauling at the hands of Slater and Rollins — his first spell of six overs cost him 47 runs — to snap up two quick wickets in a fiery spell that cost 16. Mark Ealham took two more as Derbyshire lost five wickets for 26 runs and Kent had forced their way back into the game.

Slater's sparkling innings had been ended by a sharp catch at mid-off after he had made 65 out of 131 from 77 balls. Bearing in mind that his first championship half-century last season was not until August, he was off to a roaring start. If this sort of form, which brought him eight fours and a couple of sure, clean strokes, continues, Derbyshire's potential will be greatly enhanced.

Despite their evening collapse, there are, on this evidence, several other reasons why Derbyshire could be up there with the best of them by the end of the season. Their off-the-field troubles seem to be behind them. Perhaps Colin Wells, their new coach, has influenced their general approach in the field. Here it was keen, competent and aggressive.

The quicker bowlers kept the ball up to the bat, giving it a chance to swing. None more so than Kevin Dean. His dismissals of Fulton, Key and Wells were classics of their kind: straight balls leaving the batsmen, followed by the late dipping, inswinging of full length. The three-card trick was never more ably demonstrated. With DeFreitas and Cork in support, Kent were reduced to 70 for seven.

In spite of Walker's fine, restrained innings — which brought him 53 in nearly three hours and helped double the score for the last three wickets, Kent were in trouble. Andrew Symonds was given his county cap in the tea interval, but there was little else for Kent to cheer as Slater and Rollins took them apart.

Derbyshire's century opening stand was achieved at twice the pace of Kent's own milestone, but after Weston was unfortunately run out, it was Derbyshire who were reined in before bad light intervened with four overs left.

### YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

#### PPP county championship

**CHELMSFORD** (first day of four: Essex won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 256 runs behind Warwickshire

<b>WARWICKSHIRE</b> First Innings	
N V Pugh c Law b Cowan.....2	
M A Walsh c and b Brown.....7	
D I Smith c and b Brown.....10	
T L Penney c Hussain b Iltott.....19	
T T Frost c Hussain b Iltott.....11	
D B Brown c Grayson b Iltott.....6	
"M M Smith b Iltott.....69	
G Welch not out.....38	
A R Giles c Law b Cowan.....28	
T A Munton c Smith b Grayson.....28	
E S H Giddins b Grayson.....6	
Extras (b 6, lb 11, nb 4).....21	
<b>Total (8.5 overs).....271</b>	

#### Gloucestershire v Sussex

**CANTERBURY** (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Gloucestershire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 163 runs behind Sussex

<b>SUSSEX</b> First Innings	
R R Montgomerie c Dale b Jones.....28	
M T E Pierce b Jones.....13	
"C J Adams c Maynard b Thomas.....12	
P A Gower c Evans b Gifford.....12	
R K Rao c Maynard b Thomas.....8	
R S C Martin-Jones b Thomas.....0	
"S Humphreys c Thomas b Jones.....4	
R J Kiley c Shaw b Jones.....4	
U B A Rashid b Jones.....43	
M A Robinson not out.....4	
Extras (b 3, lb 3, nb 4).....10	
<b>Total (8.3 overs).....222</b>	

#### Gloucestershire v Middlesex

**BRISTOL** (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 246 for seven wickets against Middlesex

<b>GLoucestershire</b> First Innings	
K J Barnett b Fraser.....51	
H C Hendrick c Kettleborough b Cook.....1	
D I Hewson c Slater b Cook.....1	
"M W Alleyne c Ramprakash b Shah.....16	
M G N Windward c Nash b Tufnell.....15	
R I Dawson c Hendrick b Tufnell.....18	
J N Shupe b Fraser.....18	
J R Russell not out.....3	
Extras (b 1, lb 7, nb 4).....12	
<b>Total (7 wickets, 110 overs).....246</b>	

#### Kent v Derbyshire

**CANTERBURY** (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Kent

<b>KENT</b> First Innings	
D P Fulton b Dean.....11	
R W T Iltott b Dean.....1	
A P Wells b Dean.....1	
J J Walker c Cork b Smith.....53	
S Symonds c Kettleborough b DeFreitas.....2	
M A Ealham c Kettleborough b DeFreitas.....2	
"M V Fleming c Cassar b DeFreitas.....1	
S A Marsh b Dean.....10	
D W Headley c Cassar b Cook.....10	
M P Patel b Cook.....1	
M J Morris not out.....14	
Extras (b 10, lb 4).....14	
<b>Total (8 overs).....141</b>	

#### FALL OF WICKETS:

1-5, 2-20, 3-27, 4-43, 5-55, 6-70, 7-84, 8-112.

#### BOWLING:

DeFreitas 17-3-45-3, Dean 17-3-34-4, Cook 11-1-34-2, Smith 4-1-15-1.

#### Derbyshire: First Innings

M J Slater c Fleming b Symonds.....65	
A S Raine c Key b Headley.....2	
R M S Westwood not out.....2	
P J Richard c Fulton b Ealham.....4	
M E Cassar b Headley.....2	
"D G Cook not out.....2	
P A J DeFreitas c Fleming b Ealham.....2	
M A Hendrick not out.....1	
Extras (b 3, lb 2, nb 14).....17	
<b>Total (8 wickets, 48.4 overs).....172</b>	

#### FALL OF WICKETS:

1-18, 2-37, 3-153, 4-155, 5-187, 6-188.

#### BOWLING:

McCauley 24-9-126-3, Patel 4-1-16-0, Fleming 9-1-50-0, Symonds 10-2-31-1.

#### Leicestershire v Lancashire

**CHELMSFORD** (first day of four: Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 337 for nine wickets against Lancashire

<b>Leicestershire</b> First Innings	
V J Wells c Hogg b Green.....44	
D J Maddy c and b Green.....86	
D J Maddy c and b Green.....86	
S F Smith c Hogg b Green.....17	
J J Walker c Hogg b Chappell.....14	
A Hogg c Hogg b Chappell.....12	
"P A Nixon b Chappell.....25	
C G Lewis not out.....77	
"D Kettleborough c Chappell.....2	
A D Mully c Lloyd b Chappell.....0	
S Bates b and b W, lb (nb 4).....2	
<b>Total (8 wickets, 184 overs).....337</b>	

#### FALL OF WICKETS:

1-74, 2-82, 3-116, 4-148, 5-174, 6-206, 7-245, 8-285.

#### BOWLING:

Chappell 25-5-72-4, Smeethurst 16-3-41-1, Prior 12-2-48-0, Green 14-5-59-2, C Hogg 18-5-53-0, Watkinson 11-3-30-4, Chilton 2-1-4-0.

#### Lancashire: First Innings

J P Crawley c and b A Clark.....4	
M Wadsworth c P Schofield b Chappell.....1	
M Wadsworth c P Schofield b Chappell.....1	
U R Khan c and b A Clark.....1	
M B Lloyd c and b Bicknell.....1	
R J Warren not out.....1	
D J G Sells c and b Tudor.....1	
L L Penberthy c and b Tudor.....1	
G P Swann c Barry b Tudor.....1	
"D Pickett c B C Hollister b Tudor.....1	
D E Maitland not out.....0	
Extras (b 11, lb 6, nb 22).....39	
<b>Total (8.1 overs).....248</b>	

#### FALL OF WICKETS:

1-25, 2-29, 3-35, 4-38, 5-80, 6-82, 7-91, 8-208, 9-248.

#### BOWLING:

Bicknell 21-6-48-4, Tudor 14-5-59-2, C Hogg 18-5-53-0, Butler 11-3-19-2, Salisbury 14-1-39-1, A J Hollister 6-1-19-0.

#### Derbyshire: First Innings

"A Batcher not out.....3	
J J Walker c Swann b Malcolm.....0	
N S Raine not out.....0	
G P Thorpe not out.....0	
Extras (b 4, lb 3, nb 2).....7	
<b>Total (1 wicket, 18 overs).....7</b>	

#### FALL OF WICKETS:

1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, 7-0, 8-0, 9-0, 10-0, 11-0, 12-0, 13-0, 14-0, 15-0, 16-0, 17-0, 18-0.

#### BOWLING:

Malcolm 7-3-20-1, Taylor 4-1-21-0, Foster 5-0-20-0, Swann 2-1-4-0, Upton 1-0-1-0, A Jones and G Shup 1-0-0-0.

#### Northamptonshire v Surrey

**NORTHAMPTON** (first day of four: Northants won toss): Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 176 runs behind Northamptonshire

<b>Northamptonshire</b> First Innings	
J Bailey b and b Bicknell.....75	
T M Hogg c and b Bicknell.....11	
M B Lloyd c and b Bicknell.....1	
R J Warren not out.....1	
D J G Sells c and b Tudor.....1	
L L Penberthy c and b Tudor.....1	
G P Swann c Barry b Tudor.....1	
"D Pickett c B C Hollister b Tudor.....1	
D E Maitland not out.....0	
Extras (b 11, lb 6, nb 22).....39	
<b>Total (8.1 overs).....248</b>	

## Bailey drops anchor to thwart Surrey

By IVO TENNANT

**NORTHAMPTON** (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss): Surrey, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 176 runs behind Northamptonshire

SURREY will repine over not having bowled out Northamptonshire for rather less than 248. Rob Bailey and Paul Taylor, who make for an unlikely pairing, put on 117 in 34 overs for the eighth wicket through batting that was about as contrasting as could be. One came up with gutsy defence and the other hit the ball everywhere. It was highly effective.

Had Surrey bowled a little more accurately, they might well have been batting by early afternoon. There was much life in the pitch, especially for anyone coming in from the Football Ground end.

Northamptonshire were 91 for seven at one stage. Bicknell

bowled Hayden as he drove at a



## IN BRIEF

## Referees prepare to be wired for sound

THE FA Carling Premiership is on the verge of making referees and their assistants use radio communications from next season. The move, which has been proposed by Philip Doa, the FA Premier League referees' officer, has been given a positive response by club chairmen, who plan also to discuss another of Doa's brainchildren — the use of bleeping devices in a bid to end ball-over-the-line controversies.

The initial plan is for referees to be put in constant contact with their assistants on the line via the use of headsets with radio microphones built in. All three officials will wear the devices. The aim is to enable referees to reach speedier decisions and avoid the need for touchline consultations that often inflame the mood of players and fans.

Lawrie McMenemy is likely to keep his job as manager of Northern Ireland, for the time being at least, despite the country's ignominious 1-1 draw with Canada in Belfast on Tuesday night. There has been widespread criticism of McMenemy since the match, but he and his coaching staff had been assured previously by Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, that their positions remain secure at least until after their final Euro 2000 match in Finland this October.

Nicolas Anelka, the Arsenal striker, has apologised to the Professional Footballers' Association for not appearing at their annual awards ceremony in London on Sunday, when the 20-year-old France international was voted Young Player of the Year. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, had to accept the award on his behalf.

Morocco has officially announced its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006. England, Germany and South Africa are considered to be the strongest candidates and the winner will be declared next March.

West Ham United are to sell Javier Mascherano, their Chile defender, to Arsenal for £2 million, suffered a knee injury early in his West Ham career and flew home to Chile for treatment amid rumours that his family were home-sick. The big centre half has not returned and his West Ham career appears to be over after starting just three Premiership games.

THE FA Carling Premiership is on the verge of making referees and their assistants use radio communications from next season. The move, which has been proposed by Philip Doa, the FA Premier League referees' officer, has been given a positive response by club chairmen, who plan also to discuss another of Doa's brainchildren — the use of bleeping devices in a bid to end ball-over-the-line controversies.

The initial plan is for referees to be put in constant contact with their assistants on the line via the use of headsets with radio microphones built in. All three officials will wear the devices. The aim is to enable referees to reach speedier decisions and avoid the need for touchline consultations that often inflame the mood of players and fans.

Lawrie McMenemy is likely to keep his job as manager of Northern Ireland, for the time being at least, despite the country's ignominious 1-1 draw with Canada in Belfast on Tuesday night. There has been widespread criticism of McMenemy since the match, but he and his coaching staff had been assured previously by Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, that their positions remain secure at least until after their final Euro 2000 match in Finland this October.

Nicolas Anelka, the Arsenal striker, has apologised to the Professional Footballers' Association for not appearing at their annual awards ceremony in London on Sunday, when the 20-year-old France international was voted Young Player of the Year. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, had to accept the award on his behalf.

Morocco has officially announced its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006. England, Germany and South Africa are considered to be the strongest candidates and the winner will be declared next March.

West Ham United are to sell Javier Mascherano, their Chile defender, to Arsenal for £2 million, suffered a knee injury early in his West Ham career and flew home to Chile for treatment amid rumours that his family were home-sick. The big centre half has not returned and his West Ham career appears to be over after starting just three Premiership games.

THE FA Carling Premiership is on the verge of making referees and their assistants use radio communications from next season. The move, which has been proposed by Philip Doa, the FA Premier League referees' officer, has been given a positive response by club chairmen, who plan also to discuss another of Doa's brainchildren — the use of bleeping devices in a bid to end ball-over-the-line controversies.

The initial plan is for referees to be put in constant contact with their assistants on the line via the use of headsets with radio microphones built in. All three officials will wear the devices. The aim is to enable referees to reach speedier decisions and avoid the need for touchline consultations that often inflame the mood of players and fans.

Lawrie McMenemy is likely to keep his job as manager of Northern Ireland, for the time being at least, despite the country's ignominious 1-1 draw with Canada in Belfast on Tuesday night. There has been widespread criticism of McMenemy since the match, but he and his coaching staff had been assured previously by Jim Boyce, president of the Irish Football Association, that their positions remain secure at least until after their final Euro 2000 match in Finland this October.

Nicolas Anelka, the Arsenal striker, has apologised to the Professional Footballers' Association for not appearing at their annual awards ceremony in London on Sunday, when the 20-year-old France international was voted Young Player of the Year. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, had to accept the award on his behalf.

Morocco has officially announced its bid to host the World Cup finals in 2006. England, Germany and South Africa are considered to be the strongest candidates and the winner will be declared next March.

West Ham United are to sell Javier Mascherano, their Chile defender, to Arsenal for £2 million, suffered a knee injury early in his West Ham career and flew home to Chile for treatment amid rumours that his family were home-sick. The big centre half has not returned and his West Ham career appears to be over after starting just three Premiership games.

## FOOTBALL: WATFORD DEFENDER MAY FACE LEGAL ACTION AFTER OPPONENT SUFFERS DOUBLE FRACTURE

## Vale consider suing over tackle

BY STEPHEN WOOD

PORT VALE, the Nationwide League first division club, said yesterday that they were considering taking legal action over the tackle that left Stewart Talbot, their defender, with a double fracture of his right leg.

Talbot, 25, suffered the injury after a challenge by Paul Robinson, of Watford, in their match at Vale Park on Tuesday night. Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, admitted that the tackle was "reckless and foolish" and Bill Bell, the Vale chairman, said yesterday: "We could sue the player personally, because the tackle on Talbot could threaten his livelihood and, as a club, it will not have helped our cause."

Talbot underwent surgery yesterday and the club will talk to him to discover his views on the issue. Regardless of whether Vale pursue legal action, they have lodged an official complaint with the Football Association about George Cain, the match referee.

In a strictly footballing sense, the repercussions of their 2-1 defeat could also hurt Vale. Brian Horton, the manager, believed that the game played into insignificance after Talbot was carried off — it certainly only served to increase the importance of their remaining two fixtures. Vale slipped to 21st position, above the relegation zone by virtue of the fact that they have scored more goals than Bury.

After Crewe Alexandra's win over Bristol City, the bottom club, on the same night, four teams are on 44 points. The denouement to the season is likely to be a fractious one.



Gradi has other priorities for Crewe Alexandra other than their fight to avoid relegation from the first division

Vale meet Queens Park Rangers, the club one place above them, on Saturday, while Bury await at Gigg Lane on the final day of the campaign.

The attempts of Oxford United and Bristol City to stay up appear forlorn. Oxford must travel to Bradford City this weekend, with the Yorkshire club striving for the victory that would enhance their chance of earning automatic

promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. If three of the four clubs above them win at the weekend, defeats for Oxford and Bristol City will see them relegated.

While those clubs are panicking, it is a testament to Dario Gradi, the Crewe manager, that his club are sitting relatively pretty in nineteenth position. It is the first time that Crewe have been out of the bot-

tom four since October 17 and, with matches against Portsmouth and Huddersfield Town to come, Crewe are genuinely optimistic that they will complete their escape.

Gradi, who has been manager at Gresty Road for nearly 10 years, is still considering the bigger picture. "I would rather that the new stand is built than us stay up," he said. "If we can get more people into

the ground, the finances will improve and we will have a better chance of keeping our best players." He did add, though, that it would be "nice" if Crewe could remain in the first division.

Bidding to join them are Wigan Athletic, who must cope with a daunting schedule of five games in 11 days if they are to qualify for the second division play-offs, although

the fact that the pitch at Springfield Park caused so many postponements during the winter means that they cannot complain too much.

Tonight, Wigan travel to Northampton Town, who are battling relegation. Thereafter, Wigan must play again on Saturday, Bank Holiday Monday, next Wednesday and the final day of the season, May 9. By that time, they hope to have made up the six-point gap that separates them from Bournemouth, the team at present occupying the final play-off place.

Bournemouth did themselves no favours by losing to Colchester United on Tuesday night while Wigan were beating Lincoln City. "Amateurish," Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, said of his team's performance. "Professional," was the way that Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager, described his players' attitude to the situation facing them.

To collect enough points when you are playing almost every other day is difficult," Mathias said, "but I keep telling the players that we are in a great situation. We have our destiny in our own hands and if we keep playing like we have been doing, there is no reason why we cannot be in the first division next year."

Cambridge United secured promotion from the third division with a 2-0 victory away to Rochdale on Tuesday, although Cardiff City and Brentford are still able to prevent them from winning the championship. "Promotion is not enough for me and it should not be enough for the players, either," Roy McFarland, the Cambridge manager, said yesterday. "We are hellbent on going up as champions."

## Britain could bid for Olympic football gold



Havelange: letter of assurance over World Cup status

GREAT Britain could field a football team in the Olympic Games for the first time since 1960. The British Olympic Association (BOA) said yesterday that it was having talks with the Football Association in an attempt to field a combined team from the four home nations in 2004.

The news came as Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, reiterated his call for a unified Britain team to compete in both the Olympics and the World Cup. He said that this would ensure victory in the tournaments.

Banks said: "Sepp Blatter, the FIFA president, is talking about the possibility of a British team in the Games and I would love to see that happen. But if we enter a team for the Olympics, we must find a way round the fact that we have four home countries." Simon Clegg, the BOA chief

## John Goodbody on new moves to restore a combined home nations team in time for the 2004 Games

executive, confirmed that there had been meetings with the FA "with a view to moving this forward". He added that there was a letter carrying an assurance from João Havelange, the former FIFA president, and Blatter, then the secretary-general of the governing body of world football, assuring the FA that if there were a Great Britain team at the Games it would not compromise the status of the individual nations at the World Cup.

Clegg said: "We believe that young footballers are being deprived of the chance of competing in the world's greatest sports festival. What people in this country do not realise is that for other nations, football is a major sport in the 2002.

In 1996 there were huge crowds for the tournament and the United States is not a traditional football country."

The Olympic football event was first staged in 1900, when Great Britain, represented by Upton Park FC, beat France for the gold medals. However, as early as the 1920s, problems occurred over the definition of amateurism, Britain withdrawing because of a dispute over broken-time payments.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the tournaments were dominated by the state-funded communist nations, who usually fielded their World Cup teams. These included the great Hungary side that humiliated England 6-3 at Wembley in 1953 and then 7-1 in Buda-

pest in 1954 and first attracted international attention when they won the Olympic title in 1952.

In recent years, FIFA has agreed to restrict teams to choosing players who are aged under 23, with the exception of three individuals. Recently there have been suggestions that, in future, five over-age players might be allowed to take part.

In a newspaper interview, Banks was quoted as saying of the World Cup: "Scotland is one of the great football nations and have a fabulous qualifying record. But they have never got past the first round and, if you think about them in English terms, they are the West Ham of world

football — they never quite perform to their full potential.

"No one can argue that Scottish football at its best is some of the finest in the world. But Scotland never make it past the group stage and England consistently fail to find that extra push in the final stages. As Britain they would win it."

However, the Scottish FA (SFA) immediately rejected Banks's call for a united Britain team. Jack McGinn, the SFA president, said: "Mr Banks is entitled to his opinion. However, there is no evidence to suggest that there is any support in the home countries for a Great Britain team."

An FA spokesman said: "This is a concept that has been raised before but we do not see any prospect of it because the supporters value the identity of their individual countries too much."

## Cole heads parade of prospective stars of the future

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE final of The Times FA Youth Cup will be between Coventry City and West Ham United, clubs who last won the competition in the 1980s, although West Ham, the 1981 winners, were beaten finalists as recently as 1996, when they lost 4-1 on aggregate to Liverpool.

For Coventry City, a final against a London-based team will evoke memories of 1987, when they overcame Charlton Athletic only days before the first team won the FA Cup at Wembley. On Tuesday, leading Newcastle United 4-0 after the first leg of the semi-final at St James' Park, they recovered from a nervy start to go through 5-2 on aggregate.

The goal that killed off Newcastle's comeback was scored by Chukki Erienne but the



Coventry player who has attracted most attention is Gary McSheffrey, 16, who became the youngest first-team player in the club's history when appearing as substitute at Villa Park. He scored a hat-trick at Newcastle and, although he did not score in the second leg, his speed, control and audacity gave the opposing defenders an uncomfortable evening.

McSheffrey is truly a local product, for his family home is no more than a long goal kick from Highfield Road. West Ham, in contrast, have two graduates from their academies in Australia, Richard Garcia and Michael Ferrante.

Not that the East London club is neglecting its own back yard. Berrie Brayley, born in Essex, is capable of making as well as scoring goals, while alongside Ferrante in midfield is the jewel in the Upton Park crown, Joe Cole, now with several FA Carling Premiership appearances under his belt.

West Ham, who play a fluid 3-5-2 formation, have been mightily impressive at home in the past two rounds, overrunning Arsenal and putting three goals past Everton, the holders.

For the players, the pressures of an expectant home crowd — not to mention live television coverage — present new challenges, but ones that they will have to surmount if the final next month is to be the first of many big occasions.

## BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 8 Kansas City 4 Minnesota 6 Boston 5 Texas 5 New York Yankees 10 Chicago 10 Cleveland 5 Oakland 6 Seattle 1 Detroit 5 Postponed: Chicago White Sox v Tampa Bay.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Florida 8 Chicago Cubs 6 Milwaukee 2 Los Angeles 3 Montreal 2 San Francisco 3 (10pm), Philadelphia 1 Cincinnati 0 (10pm), New York Mets 5 San Diego 6 Atlanta 3 Pittsburgh 5 Houston 11 Arizona 0 St Louis 7 Colorado 5

## BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 85 Detroit 82 Philadelphia 104 Cleveland 88 New Jersey 75 Miami 95 Dallas 84 Vancouver 75 Sacramento 104 San Antonio 100 Seattle 90 Utah 85

## BOWLS

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Botswana 4 Wales 8 (113-107, in Solihull-Patrick, Wales on series 3-0)

## FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Croatia 0 Italy 0 in Capri

FRENCH CUP: Semi-final: Nantes 1 Nîmes 0

## Tuesday's late results

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Northern Ireland 1 Canada 1

## UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES:

Germany 2 Scotland 1, Ireland 0 Sweden 3 Netherlands 0, Macedonia 1 Slovenia 2, Czech 1 Bristol City 0, Port Vale 1, Watford 2

P W D L F A Pts

Sunderland 44 25 8 11 65 30 83

Birmingham 44 22 10 12 64 35 76

Watford 44 21 13 10 62 34 76

Bolton 44 19 15 10 57 58 72

Sheff Wed 44 19 14 11 61 51 71

Wolves 44 18 14 12 58 59 68

Sheff Utd 44 17 13 14 57 58 65

Nottingham 44 17 13 14 57 58 65

Huddersfield 44 16 15 13 56 59 63

Reading 44 16 15 13 56 59 63

Sheff Albion 44 16 15 13 56 59 63

Blackburn 44 16 15 13 56 59 63

## FOR THE RECORD

NOTES: Co. 43 14 10 19 50 58 52  
Cardiff 44 12 16 16 50 58 52  
Walsingham 44 13 13 17 40 51 52  
Blackpool 44 13 13 18 40 51 52  
York 44 13 11 20 59 75 59  
Barnet 44 12 15 22 46 53 46  
Oxford 44 12 15 22 46 53 46

THIRD DIVISION: Doncaster 2 Brentford 2, Huddersfield 1 Southampton 1, Leyton Orient 0, Mansfield 0, Exeter 1, Rochdale 0, Cambridge Utd 2, Rotherham 1, Barnet 1

Cambridge Utd 44 23 11 9 76 43 80  
Cardiff 44 22 13 9 60 38 78  
Walsingham 44 21 13 10 59 51 74  
Blackpool 44 22 7 15 59 57 73

L Orient 44 19 11 11 56 54 71  
Rotherham 44 19 12 13 56 58 69  
Barnet 44 17 12 15 46 52 55  
Mansfield 44 16 18 10 57 64

Preston 44 17 11 16 53 62 60  
Plymouth 44 17 11 16 53 62 60  
Exeter 44 16 12 15 45 60 60  
Doncaster 44 16 11 16 53 58

Sarnia 44 14 12 18 52 67 64  
Birmingham 44 13 11 16 53 62 60  
Cardiff 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
Oxford 44 12 17 15 47 54 53

Torquay 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
Rochdale 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
Huddersfield 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
Reading 44 12 17 15 47 54 53

Sheff Albion 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
Hull City 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
Hull City 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
Cardiff 44 12 17 15 47 54 53

Scarboro 44 12 17 15 47 54 53  
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Huddersfield 1, Kettering 1, Northwich 1, Chesham 0, Yeovil 0, Weymouth 1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Dundee 2, Celtic 1, Aberdeen 1, Rangers 1

UEFA UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group B: England 3, Sweden 1, Czech 1, Norway 1

UNBROOK LEAGUE: Premier division: Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3, Colwyn Bay 1, First division: Doncaster 3, Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3

DR MARTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3, Colwyn Bay 1, First division: Doncaster 3, Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3

DR MARTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3, Colwyn Bay 1, First division: Doncaster 3, Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3

DR MARTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3, Colwyn Bay 1, First division: Doncaster 3, Frickley 0, Alfreton 3, Doncaster 3

## FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford 0 Charlton 2, Portsmouth 1, Southampton 1, Ipswich 1, Norwich 1, Reading 1, Luton 1, Watford 1, Burnley 1, Bury 1, Blackpool 1, Bolton 1, Sheff Wed 1, West Bromwich 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

## ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup playoffs: Eastern Conference: Pittsburgh 4, New York Rangers 3, Philadelphia 2, Washington 1, Boston 1, Detroit 1, Chicago 1, Toronto 1, Vancouver 1, Los Angeles 1, San Jose 1, Dallas 1, Dallas 1, Dallas 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 2, Barry 1, Cardiff 1, Swansea 1, Newport 1, Carmarthen 1, Gwent 1, Torquay 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1, Exeter 1, Plymouth 1

WELSH LEAGUE: First division:







# Laugh, but in the privacy of your own home

You know how it is when you are walking past one of those sex shops in Amsterdam and the window is full of moulded-latex-and-stainless-steel contraptions that are so bizarre that it takes you six minutes to figure out what they might be used for? And then you go in to work out for that purpose? That is much the same level of bemusement that fills me when confronted by a TV screen featuring Hale and Pace. Who could possibly find these two men funny?

And then, having returned from The Netherlands, you are sitting around a dinner table telling some friends about the scary sex aid you spotted in an Amsterdam shop window, and how you have been trying to work out what kind of person might use such a device, when suddenly your mouth goes dry because it has occurred to you that somebody must be using

these things — otherwise why make them? — and maybe that somebody is one of your dining companions. Possibly, it is the same person who also likes Hale and Pace.

Nobody admits to using the spookier sex aids, just as nobody admits to finding Hale and Pace funny. But there must be people who laugh at Hale and Pace in the privacy of their own homes. Who else would the BBC have squandered so much money on hiring this pair of jokers (I'm not using this word in the same sense as they might use it of themselves) from ITV? Look around you now, in your Tube train or at the neighbouring desks in your office: statistically, some of these men and women must be using Hale and Pace. You will never be able to avoid these people completely. Just try to keep a safe distance.

Just how dispiriting was the opening show of Hale and Pace's

new variety series, *h@p@bbc* (BBC1)? So dispiriting that the *Radio Times* couldn't even bring itself to recommend it to readers. Maybe Hale and Pace are experimenting with a very avant-garde sense of humour, pinching themselves as the Surrealist Incestors of BBC Light Entertainment by producing a comedy show that has no obvious comedy in it at all.

And what's with that tide (all lower case, none, which shows that Hale and Pace have done their homework and are therefore now as Web-smart as, say, the average nine-year-old)? Gareth was wondering that, too. "So it's not," said Gareth mockingly to Norman, hoping to draw the sting by getting in before us, "actually a vain attempt by two fat, middle-aged comedian blokes to look vaguely trendy and pouter-awful." But if not that, then what was it? Maybe Hale and

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Pace don't mind handing their audience a stick with which to beat them, because this would at least imply that they have an audience. The show itself was a ragbag of sweepings from those ideas rejected by other variety shows. In a pointless quiz, the comedians — Tony Blackburn, the Eurovision singer Lorraine Leskanen, and the DJ Jonathan Coleman (the only redeeming presence in the show)

— answered questions that were neither interesting nor amusing. For a pop quiz, contestants from the audience had to listen to snippets of music while immersing their heads in a tank of water: was there any reason for this, other than the fact that the person who devised this game had the IQ of a semolina? After that, for no apparent reason, a traffic warden from Islington appeared naked for us — a "Naked Civil Servant". But he wasn't a civil servant, was he?

The "comedy" duo thought it would be amusing to go to Scotland to see just how stinging the Scots are by entering shops in Perth and demanding that they be given things free. This left the shopkeepers with the choice of either looking frightened, or of being intimidated by two "comedians" and their film crew who — unwittingly — were recording the shopkeepers' reactions. The BBC. This segment ended with us being allowed

to watch Gareth urinating from under his newly acquired, fringed kilt: maybe there was a punline here, but I couldn't see it. Or maybe we could see it, but it was just very, very small. We all look forward to next week, when Hale and Pace might explore other stereotypes (blacks? Jews? Germans?) to similar hilarious effect.

As for the celebrity *Stars in their Eyes* in which Anitahe "It's time for another image change" Turner confessed (only jokingly) to being an egomaniac, before regaling us in the guise of Shane MacGowan, the thought foremost in your mind was: who advises this woman on her PR?

Compared with this, listening to Mark Urban tell us on *Levitation* (BBC2) that the Good Friday agreement is not at all that dissimilar to the Sunningdale agreement which attempted power-sharing in Northern Ireland 26 years ago — and

that after all these years nobody had come up with any new ideas — really was funny. Or else it was depressing. I forget which. Sometimes the two are very similar.

Jamie Oliver. BBC2's *Naked Chef*, is moving closer to TV sainthood. Last week he cooked dinner for his sister's hen night. This week he babysat his young cousins while preparing ravioli and a praline *semi freddo* for their parents' dinner. Here is a search for a new TV format that has paid off: the chatting to an unseen interviewer, the frantic hand-held camera: the handsome, unfussy, 23-year-old chef whose descriptive vocabulary runs out after pukekuk, wicked, lovely jubbly, and really funky: the cooking for photogenic relatives. It could all so easily have gone wrong. Oliver clearly has a bright television future, just so long as he resists the temptation to make guest appearances on Hale and Pace.

**BBC1**  
6.00am Business Breakfast (91097)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (37726)  
9.00 Kilroy (1) (9481542)  
9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (941349)  
10.15 The Vanessa Show (1) (1849946)  
11.00 News: Weather (1) (5322146)  
11.05 City Hospital (1) (9532875)  
11.55 News: Weather (1) (9530338)  
12.00 Going for a Song (1788225)  
12.25pm Just a Minute (1) (4938702)  
12.55 The Weather Show (1) (1022900)  
1.00 News: Weather (1) (30813)  
1.30 Regional News: Weather (5846252)  
1.40 Neighbours (1) (9567569)  
2.00 Through the Keyhole (1) (7271)  
2.30 Snooker: World Championship The opening session of the first semi-final. Commentary by Clive Everton (7056146)  
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8912148)  
3.45 Chucklewood Critics (2905184)  
4.10 Avon and the Champs (1753368)  
4.20 Julia Jarrell and Harold Hyde (5389558)  
4.35 Goosebumps (700691)  
5.00 Newsround (5949788)  
5.10 Miami (2873287)  
5.35 Rewind (1) (418287)  
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (731894)  
6.00 Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (900)  
6.30 Regional News Magazine (252)  
7.00 Watchdog: On the House Adrian Chiles visits the homes of lottery winners, and reveals to a housing estate in Glasgow with a rather unusual problem (1) (1287)  
7.30 EastEnders (1) (438)  
8.00 Animal Hospital (1) (4707)  
8.30 Supernatural: The Unseen Power of Animals (1) (6542)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (1078)  
9.30 Party Political Broadcast By the Conservative Party (1) (719349)



More romantic escapades with the quarelsome foursome (9.35pm)

9.35 Men Behaving Badly Tony decides to dump his old girlfriend in favour of Debbie. Comedy series, with Martin Clunes, Neil Morrissey, Caroline Quentin and Leslie Ash (1) (724146)  
10.00 They Think It's All Over (1) (83374)  
10.30 The Frank Skinner Show (1) (18542)  
11.00 Question Time (1) (809184)  
12.05am Hurry Sundown (1987) Melodrama focusing on the economic and racial tensions affecting a small community in post-Second World War America. Michael Caine stars. Directed by Otto Preminger (35719127)  
2.00 Weather (5111092)  
2.25 BBC News 24 (38458769)

9.00am-8.45 Election Call (1/4) (9461542)  
6.30-7.00 Wales Today (1) (252) 9.30-9.35 Party Election Broadcast (1) (719349)  
2.20am-2.25 News (1) (5111092)

**BBC2**  
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (39184) 7.30 Top Cat (8411417) 7.55 Blue Peter (878610)  
8.25 Dastardly and Muttley (8474981)  
8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (8637001) 8.50 Tales of Aesop (3853184) 9.58 Tales from the Net (1595691) 9.00 Job Bank (4575829) 9.10 Watch Out (5014320) 9.30 Watch (8754368) 9.45 Come Outside (7845691) 10.00 Children's BBC: Watch Out (84148) 10.30 Storyline (3400438) 10.45 The Experimenter (922417) 11.05 Space Ark (5343839) 11.15 Zig Zag (1395891) 11.35 Pathways of Belief (2753800) 11.50 Susanne (2747349) 12.10pm The Geography Programme (7237504) 12.28 Tales from the Net (8765977) 12.30 Working Lunch (24691)  
1.00 Children's BBC: Just So Stories (38775829)  
1.10 The Countryside Hour (1) (1204233)  
2.10 Wildlife Showcase (1) (1) (8937591)  
2.40 News: Weather (1) (8787233)  
2.45 Westminster (1) (5533185)  
3.25 News: Weather (1) (5273271)  
3.30 Snooker: World Championship Semi-final coverage (741233)  
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine A Bajoran village is attacked by a mysterious 'destructive energy' force (1) (860184)  
6.45 Snooker: World Championship The second semi-final (311953)  
7.30 Out and About New series (338)



Ray Mears encounters danger on India's Coromandel coast (8pm)

8.00 Ray Mears' World of Survival The survivalist teams to fish with the people of the Vachabill tribe (1) (1) (2349)  
8.30 Top Gear (1) (4184)  
9.00 CHOICE The Planets New series exploring the enigmas of the solar system (1) (342252)  
9.50 Snooker: World Championship Semi-final coverage (31981)  
10.30 Party Political Broadcast By the Conservative Party (1) (533875)  
10.35 Newsnight (1) (541788)  
11.28 Tales from the Net (1) (97982)  
11.30 Wildlife on Two (1) (1) (257252)  
11.55 Holiday Weather (766610)  
12.00 Despatch Box (53905)  
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: OU: Insights into Violence (3224) 1.00 Which Body? (92943) 1.30 The Psychology of Addiction (79914) 2.00 Further Education: Psychology (61835) 4.00 Teaching Film and Media: An Ideal Husband (98059) 5.00 Business and Training: Web Wise (3706740) 5.45 Open University: Women at the Wire (2210498) 6.10 Out of the Metting Pot (492301)

7.30pm Ray Mears' World of Survival (1) (1) (338) 6.00-6.30 Shop Talk (2349) 10.30-10.35 Party Election Broadcast (1) (102558)

**HTV WEST**  
5.30am ITV Morning News (81977)  
6.00 GMTV (2304252)  
9.25 Trisha (1) (3057523)  
10.30 This Morning (1) (49664691)  
12.15pm HTV News (1) (7527875)  
12.30 ITV News: Weather (1) (2221829)  
12.55 Shortland Street (1217707)  
1.30 Home and Away Donald has doubts about his marriage (1) (1681733)  
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (1) (5575691)  
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (1) (2571148)  
3.10 ITV News: Weather (1) (8275242)  
3.15 HTV News (1) (5271813)  
3.20 CITV: Mandy (8275242) 3.25 The Adventures of David (5268349) 3.35 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (5016707) 3.50 Lavender Castle (8203900) 4.05 Hey Arnold! (7588223) 4.30 Children's Ward (875)  
5.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (3691)  
5.30 Pleasure Guide (1) (455)  
5.58 HTV Weather (1) (91962)  
6.00 HTV News (1) (979252)  
6.25 Party Election Broadcast By the Conservative Party (943078)  
6.29 HTV Crimestoppers (943078)  
6.30 ITV Evening News: Weather (1) (320)



Kathy (Melandra Burrows) confronts Chris (Peter Amory) (7pm)

7.00 Emmerdale (1) (3455)  
7.30 A Consuming Passion An insight into the work of Orchard Lodge near Taunton, one of the UK's few units for youngsters with serious eating disorders (504)  
8.00 The Bill The jury retire to consider their verdict on DS Boulton (1) (1184)  
9.00 The Last Train The survivors discover a self-sufficient community in the barren countryside. Part five of the apocalyptic drama series, with Nicole Walker and Christopher Fulford (5/6) (1) (1320)  
10.00 Tonight with Trevor McDonald Safety fears surrounding airbags (1) (1707)  
11.00 ITV Nightly News: Weather (1) (468146)  
11.20 HTV News and Weather (1) (353875)  
11.30 A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy From Dollars What in Taunton (1) (57964)  
12.00 Public Moral (1) (7884469)  
12.35am The Jerry Springer Show American talk show (1) (971235)  
1.20 Cyber Cafe (1) (1743045)  
1.50 Transporters (7/13) (2661295)  
2.45 Box Office America (4541214)  
3.10 Cybernet (84906214)  
3.40 Murder, She Wrote (2300363)  
4.30 Coach (1) (83378479)  
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3818672)

As HTV WEST except: 5.30pm-5.58pm Crazy Credits (1) (652) 7.30-8.00 The Insider (3/4) (504) 10.00 The Feral (49882)  
10.30-11.00 The Sharp End investment in public transport (8310) 11.30-12.35 Tonight with Trevor McDonald (1) (143165)

**CENTRAL**  
As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News: Weather (1) (9745540) 12.55 Home and Away (1) (2126320) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4307436) 2.10-2.40 Echo Point (833771) 3.15-3.30 Central News: Weather (1) (5271813) 5.30 Shortland Street (455) 6.00-6.25 Central News at Six: Weather (1) (887252) 7.30-8.00 Our House (1) (504) 11.20-11.30 Central News: Weather (1) (353875) 11.30-12.35 The Wright Verdicts (143165) 1.20am Jenny (544855) 1.45 Swift Justice (1) (8026450) 2.35 Cybernet (8271813) 3.00-3.30 The Vase Festival (1) (3034550) 3.55 Central Joffender '99 (1) (8653740) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9072818)

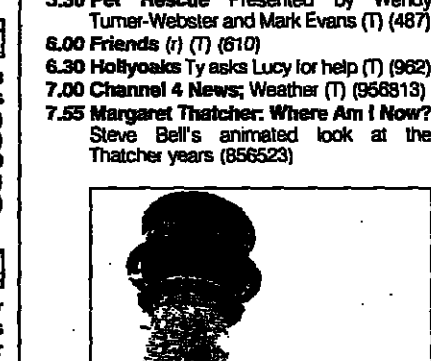
**WESTCOUNTRY**  
As HTV West except: 12.15pm News (1) (7527875) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations 12.55-1.25 Lunchtime Live (1) (2126320) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4307436) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (1) (9370707) 3.15-3.30 Westcountry News: Weather (1) (5271813) 5.25-6.00 About Anglia (7891928) 6.30 Dig It With Den (8/16) (455) 6.00-6.25 Westcountry News: Weather (1) (887252) 7.30-8.00 A Foreign Affair (504) 11.20-11.30 News (1) (353875) 11.30-12.35 Storytellers: Rod Stewart (143165)

**MERIDIAN**  
As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News: Weather (7527875) 5.30 Grass Roots (1) (455) 6.00-6.25 Meridian Tonight (1) (692752) 7.25 Meridian Weather (18629) 7.30-8.00 Meridian Focus (1/4) (504) 11.20 Meridian News: Weather (1) (244562) 11.30-12.35 The Big Breakfast (88078) 5.00am-5.30 FreeScreen (1) (55324)

As HTV West except: 12.14pm Anglia Air Watch (9765368) 12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (7527875) 5.24 Anglia Air Watch (7573207) 5.30-6.00 About Anglia (7181310) 6.00-6.25 Anglia News (1) (692752) 7.30-8.00 Craven's Collectables (1) (504) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (977504) 11.20 Anglia News (1) (353875) 11.30 Crime Night (867788) 11.45-12.00 The Ticket (1) (88271)

Starts 5.55am Sesame Street (1) (28430523) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (9470267) 9.00 Yagellon: History in Action (6782752) 9.20 Geographical Eye (6761478) 9.40 Science in Focus special: Electrons at Play (35279287) 10.00 Middle English (5415514) 10.20 Fourways (23278743) 10.30 Sci-Fi (71091639) 10.50 Express (15363639) 11.00 The Number Crew (47386369) 11.10 Lisa Looks Back (25776875) 11.25 Schools at Work (9412959) 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (9002981) 12.00 Caroline in the City (1) (1) (53848349) 12.30pm Sesame Street (1) (83789411.00) 1.00 The Great Little Games (8568725) 1.40 FILM: Arabian Adventure (1) (38594610) 4.00 A Fifteen-to-One (97977907) 4.30 Ricki Lake (1) (9878691) 5.00 Planned Plant (1) (4140604) 5.30 Countdown (1) (9792271) 6.00 Party Election Broadcast (1) (9792271) 6.05 Newsnight (1) (70500146) 6.10 Heno (1) (3900436) 7.00 Paddy's Law (1) (1160368) 7.30 Newsnight (1) (9793320) 8.00 Ti Di Gweld? (1) (4148788) 9.30 She's Gotta Have It (1) (9093878) 9.30 Friends (1) (93742981) 10.00 Father Ted (1) (51514439) 10.35 The End of the Road (1) (8243078) 11.50 The 11 O'Clock Show (97730455) 12.20am The Adam and Joe Show (1) (15744818) 12.50 Prey (1) (8634300) 1.50 Dhwed 11.45-12.00 The Ticket (88271)

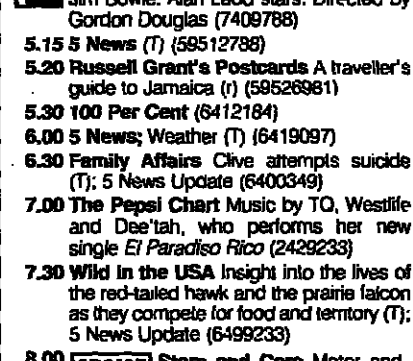
**CHANNEL 4**  
5.55am Sesame Street (5400691)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast (20436)  
9.00 Schools: History in Action (9010504)  
9.20 Geographical Eye (9003088) 9.40 Science in Focus Special: Electrons at Play (782184) 10.00 Middle English (3384252) 10.20 Fourways (786542) 10.30 Scientific Eye (9327962) 10.50 Express (8143875) 11.00 The Number Crew (5393436) 11.10 Lisa Looks Back (891829) 11.25 Schools at Work (8822875) Posthouse (9891)  
12.00 Sesame Street (1) (81875)  
12.30pm Bewitched (1) (1) (21875)  
1.00 Suddenly Susan (23523)  
1.30 The Three Stooges The trio are mistaken for reporters (1) (95684349)  
1.50 In a Lonely Place (1950) A jaded scriptwriter who is suspected of murder becomes involved with a young film star. Thriller, starring Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame. Directed by Nicholas Ray (21055523)  
3.30 Collectors' Lot Debbie Throver meets a fan of stainless steel leopards (1) (728)  
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (233)  
4.30 Countdown (1) (7007556)  
4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (9772691)  
5.30 Pet Rescue Presented by Wendy Turner-Webster and Mark Evans (1) (487)  
6.00 Friends (1) (610)  
6.30 Hollyoaks Ty asks Lucy for help (1) (962)  
7.00 Channel 4 News: Weather (1) (95813)  
7.55 Margaret Thatcher: Where Am I Now? Steve Bell's animated look at the Thatcher years (855523)



Kevin McClood supervises the construction of a cliff-top home (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE Grand Designer Author and designer Kevin McClood follows the progress of people designing their dream homes (1/8) (1) (9728)  
9.00 Dispatches Disturbing report on the illegal trafficking of women throughout Eastern Europe and southeast Asia. Promised new lives and decent jobs, the girls frequently end up as prostitutes in Britain (1) (9962)  
10.00 NYPD Blue The team investigates the murder of an elderly couple, while Russell and Nivens deal with a case of erotica from the streets of New York (1) (9349)  
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (8233)  
11.30 Ally McBeal Ally defends a doctor accused of unethical practices and squares up to Georgia in the lockbox ring. With Callista Flockhart (66438)  
12.30am 4 Later Introduction: Prey (6093127)  
1.25 Vide Offset video review (3161943)  
2.00 Late Toons: Flight Animation (5124566)  
2.05 NYPD Blue The detectives investigate a union leader's death (1) (1) (7795563)  
3.00 The Great Ziegfeld (1936) Oscar-winning musical biopic of master showman and Hollywood impresario Florenz Ziegfeld. William Powell stars in the title role, with Myrna Loy. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (19076634)

**CHANNEL 5**  
6.00am 5 News and Sport (5265813)  
7.00 WideWorld (1) (1) (225829)  
7.30 Milkshake! (2083287)  
7.35 Muppet Babies: 5 News (434900)  
8.00 Havalakazo (1) (8114233)  
8.30 Dappledawn Farm (1) (8113504)  
9.00 The Roseanne Show (1) (5827542)  
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (8235875)  
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful Katie Couric's Grant (1) (8061894)  
10.20 Sunday Beach Cote tries to keep Annie from running away (1) (4527455)  
11.10 Lesza (3282320)  
12.00 5 News at Noon (1) (8117330)  
12.30pm Family Affairs Pam thinks she is going to (1) (1) (5) News Update (8560875)  
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Studio debate on everyday issues (1458981)  
1.50 Heat Wave Drama about a young couple who are forced to flee the city during an intense heatwave. With Ben Murphy, Bonnie Bedelia, Layne Ames and David Handwerker. Directed by Jerry Jameson. 5 News Update (8234738)  
3.15 The Iron Mistress (1952) Western adventure based on the life and loves of Jim Bowie. Alan Ladd stars. Directed by Gordon Douglas (7409788)  
5.15 5 News (1) (5851278)  
5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards A traveller's guide to Jamaica (1) (5852681)  
5.30 100 Per Cent (8412184)  
6.00 5 News: Weather (1) (819097)  
6.30 Family Affairs Clive attempts suicide (1) (5) News Update (8400549)  
7.00 The Real Charm Music by TO, Westlife and Dae'ah, who perform her new single El Paradiso Rico (1429233)  
7.30 Wild in the USA Insight into the lives of the red-tailed hawk and the prairie falcon as they compete for food and territory (1) (5) News Update (8499233)  
8.00 CHOICE Stars and Cars Motor and lifestyle show, presented by Henry Cole (176) (1) (2438981)  
8.30 Viva Espana The lip dancers divulge their tactics for dissuading enthusiastic punters, while Jim Burryon decides to cheer himself up with a visit to Burryon's tomato festival. Over at Liner's Bar, the customers gear up to perform their own version of The Full Monty. 5 News Update (2424788)  
9.00 Moment of Truth: Cradle of Conspiracy (TVM 1994) A teenager alarms her parents by embarking on a dangerous relationship with a man who works for the CIA. The teenager's baby business — and then announces that she is pregnant. Starring Des Wallace, Stone, Danica McKellar, Kurt Deutsch and Carmen Argenti. Directed by Gabrielle Beaumont. 5 News Update (4952455)  
10.50 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment (5511468)  
11.25 Real Story Drama Tale of erotica from the streets of Rio (1541875)  
12.00 Ice Hockey NHL Richard Orford and Todd Macdonald present the Conference quarter-finals (9089295)  
4.30am European Motorsport (4072158)  
5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (6208363)



VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes

The following are the VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes for the relevant programmes to your video recorder. For more details call VIDEO Plus+ on 0640 750710. Cuts charged at 25p per minute at all times. VIDEO Plus+ is a registered trademark of Video Corporation of America. © 1998

## For further listings see Saturday's Vision

**SKY ONE**  
7.00am Court Duckies (7342) 7.30 Duckies (8949) 8.00m Pokémon (54368) 8.30m Pokémon (54368) 9.00m Pokémon (54368) 9.30m Pokémon (54368) 10.00m Pokémon (54368) 10.30m Pokémon (54368) 11.00m Pokémon (54368) 11.30m Pokémon (54368) 12.00m Pokémon (54368) 12.30m Pokémon (54368) 1.00am Pokémon (54368) 1.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.50am Pokémon (54368) 2.00am Pokémon (54368) 2.30am Pokémon (54368) 3.00am Pokémon (54368) 3.30am Pokémon (54368) 4.00am Pokémon (54368) 4.30am Pokémon (54368) 5.00am Pokémon (54368) 5.30am Pokémon (54368) 6.00am Pokémon (54368) 6.30am Pokémon (54368) 7.00am Pokémon (54368) 7.30am Pokémon (54368) 8.00am Pokémon (54368) 8.30am Pokémon (54368) 9.00am Pokémon (54368) 9.30am Pokémon (54368) 10.00am Pokémon (54368) 10.30am Pokémon (54368) 11.00am Pokémon (54368) 11.30am Pokémon (54368) 12.00am Pokémon (54368) 12.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.00am Pokémon (54368) 1.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.50am Pokémon (54368) 2.00am Pokémon (54368) 2.30am Pokémon (54368) 3.00am Pokémon (54368) 3.30am Pokémon (54368) 4.00am Pokémon (54368) 4.30am Pokémon (54368) 5.00am Pokémon (54368) 5.30am Pokémon (54368) 6.00am Pokémon (54368) 6.30am Pokémon (54368) 7.00am Pokémon (54368) 7.30am Pokémon (54368) 8.00am Pokémon (54368) 8.30am Pokémon (54368) 9.00am Pokémon (54368) 9.30am Pokémon (54368) 10.00am Pokémon (54368) 10.30am Pokémon (54368) 11.00am Pokémon (54368) 11.30am Pokémon (54368) 12.00am Pokémon (54368) 12.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.00am Pokémon (54368) 1.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.50am Pokémon (54368) 2.00am Pokémon (54368) 2.30am Pokémon (54368) 3.00am Pokémon (54368) 3.30am Pokémon (54368) 4.00am Pokémon (54368) 4.30am Pokémon (54368) 5.00am Pokémon (54368) 5.30am Pokémon (54368) 6.00am Pokémon (54368) 6.30am Pokémon (54368) 7.00am Pokémon (54368) 7.30am Pokémon (54368) 8.00am Pokémon (54368) 8.30am Pokémon (54368) 9.00am Pokémon (54368) 9.30am Pokémon (54368) 10.00am Pokémon (54368) 10.30am Pokémon (54368) 11.00am Pokémon (54368) 11.30am Pokémon (54368) 12.00am Pokémon (54368) 12.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.00am Pokémon (54368) 1.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.50am Pokémon (54368) 2.00am Pokémon (54368) 2.30am Pokémon (54368) 3.00am Pokémon (54368) 3.30am Pokémon (54368) 4.00am Pokémon (54368) 4.30am Pokémon (54368) 5.00am Pokémon (54368) 5.30am Pokémon (54368) 6.00am Pokémon (54368) 6.30am Pokémon (54368) 7.00am Pokémon (54368) 7.30am Pokémon (54368) 8.00am Pokémon (54368) 8.30am Pokémon (54368) 9.00am Pokémon (54368) 9.30am Pokémon (54368) 10.00am Pokémon (54368) 10.30am Pokémon (54368) 11.00am Pokémon (54368) 11.30am Pokémon (54368) 12.00am Pokémon (54368) 12.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.00am Pokémon (54368) 1.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.50am Pokémon (54368) 2.00am Pokémon (54368) 2.30am Pokémon (54368) 3.00am Pokémon (54368) 3.30am Pokémon (54368) 4.00am Pokémon (54368) 4.30am Pokémon (54368) 5.00am Pokémon (54368) 5.30am Pokémon (54368) 6.00am Pokémon (54368) 6.30am Pokémon (54368) 7.00am Pokémon (54368) 7.30am Pokémon (54368) 8.00am Pokémon (54368) 8.30am Pokémon (54368) 9.00am Pokémon (54368) 9.30am Pokémon (54368) 10.00am Pokémon (54368) 10.30am Pokémon (54368) 11.00am Pokémon (54368) 11.30am Pokémon (54368) 12.00am Pokémon (54368) 12.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.00am Pokémon (54368) 1.30am Pokémon (54368) 1.50am Pokémon (54368) 2.00am Pokémon (54368) 2.30am Pokémon (54368) 3.00am Pokémon (54368) 3.30am Pokémon (54368) 4.00am Pokémon (54368) 4.30am Pokémon (54368) 5.00am Pokémon (54368) 5.30am Pokémon (54368) 6.00am Pokémon (54368



